Maynilad ordered to pay MWSS P6B

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He's not alone

TOWERING tension builds up in the airport drama unfolding from midnight Friday into the wee hours of Saturday and ending with the killing of retired Capt. Pantilo Villarael and Lt.sg Ricardo Castrillon. (Top left) The view from the 12-story high tower is framed through its shattered window. DENNIS ENRIQUEZA

Ex-aviation chief, aide shot dead in Naia tower

By TJ Burgonio, Jerome Aning and Juliet Labog-Javellana

A FORMER chief of the Air Transportation Office and his aide who took control of the ATO tower starting Friday night were shot dead early yesterday by a police assault team while he was crying surrender. (See related story on this page.)

Panfilo Villarael, 62, a Philippine Air Force reservist and assistant transportation secretary in 1992-96, was in the middle of an interview with radio station dzBB when he and Navy Lt. Ricardo Castrillon were killed at around 2:45 a.m. by an assault team of the Aviation Security Group led by Senior Supt. Avelino Cato.

President Macapagal-Arroyo went on nationwide TV after 7 a.m. to commend the "swift and decisive" resolution of the siege and to assure the public that it was an isolated incident and not related to any attempt to grab power.

She did not respond to reporters' questions and gave the floor to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who had just come from the scene of the siege.

Mendoza said that he informed the President of the incident at 12:50 a.m., and that

TO A'TOS A4

Intelligence officer says armed group didn't show up

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

FORMER Air Transportation Office chief Panfilo Villarael may not have been acting alone when he seized the Naia 2 control tower but may have been involved in yet another conspiracy to bring down the Macapagal administration, two ranking military officials said yesterday.

Amid the reported recruitment of active military officers by retired officials for another coup plot, it is highly possible that Villarael was waiting for an armed contingent that failed to show up, said an Army officer involved in counter-intelligence.

The officer compared the situation to the July 27 failed coup when the mutinous junior officers were forced to settle for seizing the Oakwood hotel in Makati after the "political and multi-sectoral components" of the attempted power grab failed to materialize.

Like the Oakwood mutineers, Villarael was left hanging at the Naia control tower, the source said.

He said another possibility was that the former ATO chief was involved in the planning of a coup but had gotten "highly emotional and impatient" and decided to go it alone, way ahead of schedule.

The second source, a retired top military official, agreed with this scenario and urged authorities to investigate Villarael's links with politicians who were probably also involved in what they believe to be an aborted coup.

"It's very hard to imagine one former government official feeling himself up at the airport control tower and claiming that he just wanted to be heard. His action was pre-planned and his cover story was very viable," the Army official said.

In a radio interview shortly before he was killed, Villarael claimed that he had no intention of seizing power and that he was not being supported by any politician.

The President and top military officials brushed off speculations that Villarael's ac-

(ATO) A2

Constitution limits House 'sole power' to impeach

By Jovico B. Salenga
Rosaly Ateneo-gayo-Villaluyan
and Raul C. Pangalangan
Dean, UP College of Law

OUR COUNTRY is gripped by a debate that pits the elected congressmen asserting the power of their members against the judicial guardians of our Constitution asserting the high moral ground of principle.

We respectfully submit that the congressional members do not, in this instance, hold any right-ous claim, and certainly not against Chief Justice Davide, a man whose integrity and probity even his accusers have not formally challenged.

The Articles of Impeachment against Chief Justice Davide are invalid because they violate the Constitution, which says that "no second proceeding may be initiated against the same person within one year." That is clear from the text of the Constitution, and

CONSTITUTION A4

MARKER at the control tower: That which he helped build destroyed him. ROGER MAGSULIT

'An overkill;' family wants investigation

By TJ Burgonio, Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

THERE WAS "nothing violent" about the man who seized the control tower of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Friday night, Maj. Gen. Pedrozano Abot said yesterday.

Villarael's wife Marina said in a TV interview she was not expecting her husband to be killed "like a criminal."

"Never mind if he would be detained," she said. "(His killing was) the worst thing I was expecting for what he had done."

Villarael's daughter Mary Ann said her family was "shocked" at what had happened. She told reporters that the family

ON CIVILIAN A10

'We surrender, we surrender'; then dying gasps heard live on radio

By Tony Bergonia, Alexis Papa and Jerome Aning

WHAT sounded like a disrupted phone signal turned out to be the dying gasps of ex-aviation chief Panfilo Villarael, whose tragic end was heard by millions of radio listeners as he talked on air with radio-TV journalist Arnold Clavio just before he was shot dead by a police assault team.

"They are attacking us now! They are murdering us! They are killing us!" Villarael could be heard shouting in a mixture of Filipino and English amid bursts of gunfire.

"We surrender! We surrender!" Villarael screamed.

There was a loud explosion, followed by labored breathing, and then silence.

Villarael's cell phone remained turned on throughout the assault, according to Clavio.

"I thought there was a problem with my cellular phone signal. It turned out that they were the sounds of a dying man," said Clavio in a phone interview.

Clavio said that during an earlier off-the-air cellular phone conversation, Villarael sounded like he was "turning soft and was willing to surrender peacefully."

Villarael told him that as a condition for his surrender he wanted the government troops preparing to assault the tower to pull back.

"All I'm asking is for the Special Weapons and Tactics" (SWAT) team to be removed. No problem. I'm willing to give myself up peacefully," Clavio quoted him as saying.

He told Clavio why he seized

(P2) A10

Monkey tests prove it's smart to exercise

WASHINGTON—Exercise fanatics may be right—getting out and moving increases blood flow in the brain, US researchers said on Saturday.

Tests on monkeys show that exercise helps foster blood vessel development in the brain, making the

PSORIATIC A6

Greenbelt 3 wins int'l 'Oscar' for land use

THE PHILIPPINES has received another feather in its cap for its efforts to enhance the environment and community life.

And this time the award concerns life, not in the wilds or in virgin land, but in the concrete jungle.

Greenbelt 3 in Makati City won the Urban Land Institute Award for Excellence, regarded as the Oscar of the land use industry. Its developer, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), received the award on Oct. 21 in ceremonies in San Francisco, California.

The Urban Land Institute is a US-based international research and education organization that provides leadership in the use of land to enhance the total environment. It counts 18,000 members and associates from 70 countries.

The 27,871-square-meter Greenbelt 3 was named among 10 outstanding real

GREENBELT 3 A5

THE OSCAR of the international land use industry, the Urban Land Institute Award in the US, was won by Greenbelt 3 in Makati City for offering a "a new model for retail/entertainment development in Asia, one with an intense sense of place."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Maynilad ordered to pay MWSS P6B

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE BUSINESS empire of the Lopez family was dealt with another blow after an international arbitration panel favoring the dispute between Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the government ordered the Lopez-owned firm to pay the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System more than P6 billion in concessions fees.

The Paris-based ICC International Court of Arbitration ruled that Maynilad should pay its outstanding concession fees to MWSS within 15 days from receipt of the order.

"This represents a major victory for the government and MWSS, which has consistently sought payment of the concession fees after the grace period for payment of the same had expired last March 31, 2003. The outstanding concession fees are estimated to be over P6 billion, and the collection thereof is essential to MWSS servicing of its existing debt obligations to international banking institutions," Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.Z. Teehankee said.

Teehankee said that Maynilad could still file a motion for reconsideration before the arbitration panel or "on very limited grounds" appeal to the Court of Appeals.

The decision cited in part Maynilad's assertion in the controversy that the agreement "remains in full force" thus there are "no grounds" to terminate it, he said.

"Both parties are bound by the contract. There is no ground to say that it is terminated," Teehankee added.

Teehankee said the arbitration panel conducted hearings in Manila last August and September. The panel is composed of representatives from both sides."

Maynilad was represented by Sheldon Appo Giles Meagher & Plum, and Pono & Pono, while MWSS was represented by the Department of Justice, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel and Alam and Ortiz.

Maynilad earlier posted a P336 million performance bond with the panel to ensure the payment of the concession fees. Teehankee said the MWSS could now draw from the bond.

Maynilad is 53 percent owned by Benpres, the flagship of the Lopez family, while about 20 percent is owned by Ondeo, a French multinational affiliated with Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, and 20 percent by Lyonnaise non-Suez Lee.

It was Benpres that allegedly decided to end the concession agreement, being itself saddled with around P600 million in debts.

Benpres' financial woes were aggravated when the Supreme Court ordered its sister company the Manila Electric Co., in November last year to refund overbillings to its customers from 1994 to 1998. Meralco put the refund cost at P20 billion.

Benpres is an indirect shareholder in Meralco, owning 46 percent of First Philippine Holdings Corp., which in turn has a 16-percent stake in Meralco.

Maynilad blamed the El Niño weather phenomenon, the effects of the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the delay in the completion of a related sewerage project for its troubles.

Maynilad claimed that the government's failure to comply with the terms of the concession agreement forced it to waive the contract's automatic rate hike provision meant said that Maynilad failed to live up to its commitments to maximize and recover the Balanz Hardcliche Argentina, which has a capacity of 21,000 cmd, from Basin of water for dry and rainy season 50 percent of the water needs of Metro Manila.

The MWSS and Maynilad also failed to date SIC million in equity as penalties in the MWSS BOT (build-operate-transfer) contract. PHOTO by report from Christine Cephas Bonoan

SC justices burn midnight oil to come up with decision

By Philip C. Tubeza

SUPREME Court justices worked overtime yesterday in a bid to come up with a decision on the country's fate of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s impeachment.

The SC is expected to release its decision on Monday, when Congress resumes session. Proponents of Davide's impeachment in the House of Representatives have vowed to move for the resumption of the debates of impeachment in the Senate once the session resumes tomorrow afternoon.

"The SC is pulling out all the stops. They will work through the night to cover the weekend," said SC spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr.

Sources said that 12 of the 15 justices were in the SC compound in Manila early yesterday afternoon with only Justices Leonardo Quisumbing, Alicia Austria-Martinez and Adolfo Azcuna still not as of press time.

Khan said Davide did not participate in the deliberations.

Sources in the high tribunal said the justices were already writing their opinions on the case.

One source said a "powerful" Court member was already writing the decision while the others were writing their own opinions. He did not say what the decision was or whether the separate opinions were dissenting or concurring.

Davide has delayed himself both attending the oral arguments on the case on Wednesday and Thursday.

Khan's earlier said the justices were going to take two sessions when deciding on the case the constant proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to consider the impasse.

Khan said Davide was entitled to accept the injunction contrary to and the rules.

The covenant would compel the House of Representatives to withdraw the impeachment complaint and proceed instead with the investigation of the Judiciary Development Fund by its committee of justice.

It also states that the Government or Audit has the authority to audit the books of all government agencies, and that it is the SC, not Senate, which the House committee should ask to explain the disbursements of the multi-billion-peso JDF.

The agreement recognizes the independence of the legislative and judicial branches "in the exercise of their respective powers and prerogatives."

During the oral arguments on Thursday, some of the justices expressed strong opinions on the case. But further interviews, Pangalangan said the justices are questioning or arguments did not necessarily mean they had made up their minds on the issue.

Justice Reynato Puno had said that Congress should still follow the constitutional procedures on impeachment and, if it did not, the court had the right to review its actions.

Justice Jose Vitug said the court cannot simply "close its eyes" when a person's rights are violated, whatever their stripes.

Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez asked one of the amici curiae (friends of the court) why the court could not rule on the matter immediately when doing so would save time, expense and avoid undue injury to the respondent.

ANTI-DAVIDE
Members of the People's Movement Against Poverty of ousted President Joseph Estrada hold a lightning rally yesterday outside SF Home Commonwealth in Quezon City where Chief Justice Hilario Davide lives.

Dream official, COA auditor says of Davide

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide is every auditor's dream public official.

Commission on Audit officer Cecilia Cupa-Arao said the keynote that in all her 25 years in service, she had yet to meet a head of office as "transparent" and as cooperative with auditors as Davide.

"He is the only head of office who ever told me that I could disallow (spending) that he had previously approved," said Cupa-Arao, who presided the COA report on the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF).

Cupa-Arao, who cleared Davide and the Supreme Court of alleged irregularities in the disbursements of the JDF, has also come under fire from the congressmen who used her report on the as impeachment complaint against Davide.

She said Davide was one of few heads of office who took an interest in discussing with their audit teams the "summary" of year-end audit reports.

The COA officer recounted: "During one such meeting I told him, 'There are red findings, what do I do?' He replied, 'That is your report, you must include it. The Filipino people will be happy for what we do.'"

She said Davide's cooperation spared trouble-some than she had found in the SC's books. "He is an honest," she said of the Chief Justice. "He fully recognizes the COA's power to audit."

Cupa-Arao's experience with Davide runs completely counter to those of some COA officials, who have in the past complained of harassment for exposing irregularities in the offices they are assigned to.

The auditors said their relations with the heads of these offices were "diplomatic" at best and "adversarial" at worst.

Cupa-Arao admitted, however, that it was not entirely easy auditing the Supreme Court. "The accounting system had been neglected for several years," she said. "It was like (auditing) the books of the Department of Public Works and Highways...maguilo (disorganized)."

A multi-awarded auditor, Cupa-Arao earlier announced push at the DPWH, the Department of Health and several local government offices.

Before the JDF scandal broke out, Cupa-Arao said her audit team and Davide had been working together to criminalize and organize the SC's financial records.

More signatures expected to be withdrawn today

By Cynthia D. Balana

SOME SIGNATURES in the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide are expected to withdraw their signatures today, former Sen. Heherson Alvarez said yesterday.

Alvarez, who was elected by the multi-party withdrawal of support for the complaint in behalf of a group of opposition lawmakers, said of congressmen withdrawing their signatures as expected to reach 18 by today.

Since Congress adjourned on Oct. 28, the number of signatories reached 93. At least 78 signatures are needed to resurrect the articles of impeachment against Davide.

If the 19 withdrawals expected by Alvarez materialize on Monday, the complaint would be deemed defeated.

"The House consensus is that there is once more peace and all the issues have been made done to the table. There is now a renewable relationship that the impeachment is concerned," Alvarez said.

A total of nine congressmen officially withdrew from the complaint as of Monday last week, most of them members of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Alvarez said he was waiting in the process of the other congressmen who signed their signatures to withdraw.

He said he expected other signatories to follow suit on Monday.

Siquijor Rep. Orlando Fua, a member of the seven-man panel formed to conduct discussions on the complaint, said more than 60 percent of the members of the House have supported the idea.

In a press statement, Negros Oriental Rep. Demetrio Teves said he was prepared to withdraw his signature provided that the SC would fully cooperate with the House inquiry into the JDF.

Teves was also included in Alvarez's list of congressmen who might withdraw. He said two others will do so today or on Monday. With Florence Lerwyn, PDI Intern Jamie Santos, Reporters; Jaime Laude, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Monnor Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Suzanne Lalisa, PDI Pampa Bureau

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Amid crises, GMA assures aid donors of RP's stability

By Ivonne R. Sim Cruz
PDI Harper Bureau

TOKYO, JAPAN—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured international aid groups that her administration remained strong amid destabilization attempts and the conflict between the government's legislative and judicial branches.

The President maintained that the country was capable of handling any crisis, such as the incident at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 yesterday.

"Nothing will ever justify the taking over of an international airport—normal times, nothing!—the lives of air passengers," Ms Macapagal said. "I must commend the swift and decisive response of our antiterrorism security units. They were working under the direction of [Transportation and Communications] Secretary Larry Mendoza [even] while he was here. I think this proves how disaster- and security-ready the Philippines is."

The President spoke during the closing ceremony of the Consultative Group Meeting for the Philippines at donor countries and international aid organizations, held at the Shangri-la Mactan Hotel. It was attended by representatives of 17 countries and 17 international organizations that had extended official development assistance to the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal said the Oslo was "safe and sound."

On the issue of Chief Justice Hilario Davide's impeachment, she reiterated that she would abide by "any decision of the Supreme Court as the ultimate arbiter and interpreter of the law and the Constitution."

Meanwhile, she said, leaders of Congress and the high court were now studying a draft resolution that she had presented to them to resolve the controversy.

"Again, this shows there should be no doubt as to [our] permanent political stability," she told participants of the meeting.

Shortly before the spoke, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho reported that the donor countries had agreed to the establishment of a Mindanao multi-donor trust fund.

Camacho said many of the donor countries had committed to contribute to the fund if the government signed a peace accord with the Muslim rebels.

Ms Macapagal assured the donors that her administration would continue to pursue peace efforts with insurgents while standing after terrorists, especially Jemaah Islamiyah members in the country.

Maintaining that development and peace were hand in hand, the President said:

"We can foster lasting peace in Mindanao only by promoting its national development. Talking peace with the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] is our consistent priority. But our peace is not for terrorists."

Cabinet changes coming

COMING soon: a Cabinet revamp.

In his weekly radio address yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave two reasons for the forthcoming changes. "First, some Cabinet members are planning to run in the [May 2004] elections. Second, as they wrap up their [remaining] terms, they will not implement reform programs."

The President did not elaborate, but hinted that she was about to sack those who went performing below her expectations.

At least 10, or nearly half of the regular Cabinet secretaries, are planning to run for the Senate or other elective positions, according to sources in Lakas-CMD, the ruling party.

A Lakas official revealed that the Cabinet members were among the 38 prospective senatorial candidates of the party.

The list includes Secretaries Mar Roxas of trade, Cito Lorenzo of agriculture, Dick Gordon of tourism, Jose Lina of interior and local government, Manuel Gayoso of health, Roberto Pagdanganan of agrarian reform, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, national security adviser Roilo Golez, and retiring cop Angelo Reyes, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and presidential adviser for overseas Filipinos Roberto Ongpin.

Cabinet officials are deemed resigned from their appointive positions as soon as they file their certificates of candidacy for the 2004 polls, the deadline is Dec. 15.

Bunye earlier downplayed the implied mass resignation in the Cabinet ranks.

He said the administration had a "deep bench" from which to draw new appointees to the Cabinet. Juliet Labog-Javellana

Naia takeover delays flights, cancels RP-US military training

By Jerome Aning

AT LEAST four international and seven domestic flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 were delayed during the takeoff brought about by the seizure of air control towers early dawn yesterday.

In Pampanga, the US military cancelled a major flight exercise for the Joint Vision-04 ground and air training here on Saturday following the foiled takeover of the Naia 2 control tower by an Army reservist Col. Danilo Villareal and his aide, sergeant Alfredo Bicarel Cacdiliha.

Capt. Russell Barnes, public affairs officer of the US Third Marines Expeditionary Forces, said instructions flights using Cobra attack helicopters —which would have been a first for Philippine air force pilots—were called off because of the early morning assault on the airport.

Phil. flights to Cagayan, Catanduanes, Davao, Jolo, Puerto Princesa, Cebu and Iloilo, all set to leave between 6:20 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. were delayed 30 minutes to an hour and a half.

A PAL flight to Singapore set to leave at 8:20 a.m. was able to leave at 9:05 a.m. while another one to Bangkok, Thailand, which was supposed to leave at 9:05 a.m. was able to do so at 9:340 a.m.

Naia 2 caters solely to flights of the country's flag carrier, Philippine Airlines.

The only incoming flight affected by the standoff directly was one from Vancouver, Canada, whose pilot opted to land at the Mactan International Airport in Cebu. Other flights that were set to arrive after 9 a.m. from Los Angeles and San Francisco arrived on time.

Some airline companies decided to delay their flights to ensure their passengers' safety in the nearby Naia Terminal 1, a flight to Qatar that was supposed to leave at 6:30 a.m. was delayed by more than an hour.

At around 5:30 a.m. Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda announced that the takeover of the tower was not part of a coup d'etat against the Macapagal administration nor a terrorist act. He called the incident a "simple police matter" that would be dealt with quickly since the tower was a "very critical government infrastructure."

With Donella Dejan, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Group takes fight vs actor-politicians to Supreme Court

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE MOLDS Justice Society (MJS) party has asked the Supreme Court to bar actor-politician Joey Marquez, Vilma Santos and Lito Lapid from appearing in movies and on television while they are holding public office.

In a 12-page petition for review, the MJS, through its national president Socrates Alcantara, asked the high tribunal to reverse the decision of a Manila Regional Trial Court.

The political party had initially asked the Manila RTC to rule on the matter but the court dismissed its petition on June 30, saying the MJS had no legal personality. The MJS appealed the ruling but the RTC again turned it down on Sept. 12.

On Friday, the party took its case to the high court, saying the party's legal standing was "a procedural technicality" that could be "set aside when the issues raised are of paramount interest."

The MJS explained: "The recourse is eagerly awaiting a judicial declaration on the propriety or conduct that must be followed by their movie or television idols who are also city or municipal mayors or provincial governors."

Alcantara claimed that the actors had violated the Local Government Code, which says all governors, city and municipal mayors were prohibited from practicing their profession and engaging in any occupation "other than the exercise of their functions as local chief executives."

He said part-time work in the movies or television enhanced the actor-politicians' income but "considerably" reduced the time they should devote to their office. It also gave them the "undue advantage" of sustained popularity over political rivals.

Tower was Masada for an 'old' yet still idealistic man

By Stella D. Gonzalez

I MET Col. Basilio Villareal for the first time in July 1999. We were part of the 16th Philippine trade delegation to Israel headed by former President Fidel Ramos.

I knew next to nothing about the former government official—and only what I had read in the papers—until the delegation stayed in Israel for only three days. But he managed to impress me as very idealistic.

Examples: He—an "old" yet still idealistic man:

During our very hectic schedule, Villareal managed to tell me his story, mostly about how the Ad Hoc Tower could be understood using Filipino ingenuity and how the Philippines could still develop.

A couple of hours after our plane from Bangkok landed in Tel Aviv, Villareal decided to forego sleep and instead arrange a consultation on Israeli history.

My memory of what transpired when we met in the hotel lobby afterwards remains very vivid. His eyes were full of fire as he recounted his impressions of the Israelis as a people.

"They're very nationalistic, patriotic. Why can't we Filipinos be the same?" Villareal asked me then.

He went on to explain how the Philippines could develop if only more Filipinos cared enough for their country, like the Israelis did.

Funny man

But Villareal was also a funny guy.

On our way to the Israeli education headquarters, he kept telling one of the members of the delegation, a government official, about the possibility of him retiring for the Senate, and about how he would volunteer to be her campaign manager.

Later, during our long bus ride to the Dead Sea, he coined a campaign slogan for her.

The government official kept telling him to stop but his joke became more and more elaborate, to the amusement of other people. He was after all a businessman, not a politician.

But he told us stories about the dilapidated IAF planes, and how our skillful pilots managed to keep the planes in the air—for example, by inserting a screwdriver here and there.

From the stories he told us about his family, I could tell he was a good family man and that he was proud of his wife and children.

A few months later, I met Villareal at a press conference (Sabi ko nga, he had channeled upon because he was in the vicinity).

Dreamer

We said our hellos, and then he immediately engaged me in a serious conversation about nationalism and Philippine development.

We lost contact after that, but my impressions of this dreamer lingered. Any reminiscence about that trip in Israel always included my memories of Villareal and his dreams.

Yesterday morning, I heard Villareal speaking for Israel to make before he died. I searched for the only picture he and I had posed for when we were in Israel.

Die, not surrender

It was taken in Masada—the Judean desert stronghold which was the scene of one of the most dramatic episodes in human history. There, 960 people—the assassins of the Israelis—preferred to commit suicide than surrender to the Roman conquerors.

But Villareal would die in the air conditioner yesterday into a living and dedicated "old" man.

The tower was for Masada.

Constitution limits House 'sole power' to impeach

Pick up page A-2

from the debates in the Constitutional Commission, which adopted the view that impeachment proceedings in the House begin with the filing of a verified complaint by a Member of the House, and end with the approval by one-third of the House of the Articles of Impeachment.

Not unbounded discretion

But Congress says that any impeachment action is taken in "political and not justiciable," because the Constitution vests it with the "sole power" to impeach. We disagree. That alone does not automatically place the acts of Congress beyond scrutiny by our courts of justice. It would be so only if the Constitution gives the House unbounded discretion, such that the word lacks any expressive standard by reference by which to say that validity.

In this case, the impeachment power is actually found above in limits fixed by the Constitution, for instance, the "sole power" to impeach" needs the vote, and verified complaint by one-third of the House, can be exercised only once a year against the same person, and must follow the detailed procedure prescribed in the Constitution.

The House's discretion is therefore confined by clear objective limits that the Supreme Court can ascertain. Its discretion is not absolute, but is "confined into banks that keep it from overflowing."

Limits ascertained by SC

Should the House trespass these clear-cut boundaries, the court has the power to strike down that act. In doing so, the court does not violate the separation of powers, the doctrine that says that one Freedom Debris but unless the Congress, the President and the Supreme Court checkand-balance one another.

In the petitions before the Supreme Court, both of the petitioners ask the court to substitute its judgment for that of the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaints. They do not ask the court to weigh the evidence, contest the findings, or change their moral judgments. Rather, what they ask is for the court to apply the requirements set forth in the Constitution, and declare the second complaint invalid for violating the Constitution...or apply the will of the Filipino people who ratified that Constitution in 1987.

Principle of judicial review

The principle of judicial review was long ago established, and has since outlived its original usefulness. It is misleading for some congressmen to say that the Supreme Court must not read on their turf. That turf was not theirs alone to start with, but the peoples.'

Nonetheless, we have called upon the court to use its power with care and only as a last resort, as now, by the final arbiter of constitutional disputes. Other friends of the Court (amici curiae) recently have invoked what is known as "judicial restraint," and asked that the petition be dismissed. We disagree. We insist that the court assume jurisdiction, that the court NOT decide the petitions, and ask only that the court not exercise judgment.

FRIENDS of sorts. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga and GP Low Guan Beat C. Pangalangan get ready to present their oral arguments before the Supreme Court on Thursday. Salonga was survived seven the darkest days of martial rule.

Blocking actions

There remain, in the meantime, constitutional avenues to block the impeachment complaint. Enough House Members can withdraw their signatures below the one-third threshold, or block the transmittal to the Senate of the Articles of Impeachment by a majority vote.

The constitutional debates can be consulted on the Senate as well, which may dismiss the charges on a Motion to Quash, for as long as those remedies are not a dents, the court may find it the lesser evil of prudence to let the constitutional process rectify the error.

Battle for hearts, minds

We realize the reasons that a simple and decent man today extolls as, as that of his loved ones, and of our fevered nation.

But we witness today a battle for the hearts and minds of the Filipino people, a battle fought in the courts, in the streets, in state media. The court does not seek to a political excuse.

'Least dangerous'

The judiciary, the "least dangerous branch" resides not the power of arms (Ako President and her military clubmen did, not the power of the purse (the Congress, and their business partner did. The Supreme Court alone wields the power to give or withhold legitimacy. That power must be wielded wisely.

And if, indeed verdict will necessary to vindicate an innocent man nor save a tarnish's soul, and will fail the judgment of history.

High-moral ground

The Senate won't has sought to bring the judiciary to high moral ground. Is it that high moral ground that the court must not yield to those who would despoil our fragile democracy.

Greenbelt 3 wins int'l 'Oscar' for land use

From page A1

ceive development around the world (even in the United States and three in Asia) from a field of 300 nominees. It was one of only three shopping centers cited worldwide.

The veterans were judged not only on beauty of architecture and design but also on financial stability, community acceptance and relevance for the future, and consistency with the institute's mission of responsible land development.

Welcome oasis

The institute cited the Greenbelt 3 development in the heart of the Philippines' premier business district for providing a "welcome oasis for visitors and culture while attracting and sustaining business."

It noted Greenbelt 3's open-air concept, which it called an "unconventional garden mall design" unlike the enclosed air-conditioned shopping centers typical of the Philippines.

"It offers a new model for retail/entertainment development in Asia, one with an intimate sense of place that responds to the Philippine culture and lifestyle and to the demands of international retail and entertainment standards," the institute said in its awards program.

Also recently, the International Council of Shopping Centers, the trade association of the shopping center industry, gave a Silver Award to the ALI for the launch of Greenbelt 3. The annual event presented during the ICSC Maxi Awards for Marketing Excellence.

Major challenge

ALI president Francisco B. Licuanan III told the Cebuo land investor that building Greenbelt 3 around a park and preserving its 440 trees—including a bodhi tree, palm and banyan—were major challenges.

He said that in response to the challenge, the ALI decided to "celebrate the park" by increasing its size from 1.4 hectares to three hectares, adding 200 more trees, shrubs, flowering plants and water features.

To provide more land, the ALI relocated the parking space underground.

Li also gave full consideration to the Filipino's innate fondness for dining and socializing. "We translated only the best restaurateurs and entertainment operations for this one-of-a-kind destination, which offers an indoor-outdoor experience," Licuanan said.

The presences of a chapel and the Ayala Museum at the site also indicates "our intent to accommodate the Filipinos' cherished customary activities," he said, adding:

"By incorporating a unique urban retail entertainment concept, we have made Greenbelt the new dining and entertainment capital of metropolitan Manila and the country's first lifestyle center."

Dreaming and building

The award is timely for the ALI, which celebrates this year its 15 years as a premier full-line real estate company.

The celebration theme, "You Keep Dreaming, We'll Keep Building," is echoed in its vision.

Greenbelt 3 is the realization of urbanites' desire for city havens that respect nature while providing tasteful, contemporary modern-urban and socialize.

According to the awards jury chair Petros Rastokovich, the Urban Land Institute winners exemplify the trend for designs to cut dependency on autos, to provide housing closer to jobs and to preserve more green space.

Greenbelt 3 also stands out in its class for providing its visitors an effective and comfortable connection to other retail buildings through its elevated walkways.

Other winners

The two other Asian winners are Ariga Green Hills in Tokyo and the Shanghai Xintiandi in Shanghai.

The Japanese winner blends the wooden groves of Ariga to Mount Ariga and three 300-year-old Buddhist temples with a 332-unit residential tower, a 52,378-sq.m. office tower, a retail plaza, a TV broadcasting museum and a printing factory.

The development in Shanghai melds the city's past with the commercial realities of urbanizing.

The seven ALI developments include the Chattahoochee River Greenway in Georgia, which involved the restoration of a series of public greenways and parks along the 188-mile stretch of riverbanks throughout the state.

Another awardee is the Bay Harbor in Michigan, a 1,300-acre luxury residential community built on an abandoned site of a cement plant and limestone quarry.

Yet another is the town of Seaside in Florida. The town cited as a model for new urbanism is noted for pedestrians with generous civic spaces, as well as a publicly owned oceanfront property that provides a strong sense of community. Ruby Hilario-Lontoc Pascuas, Correspondent

"[ALI is] the private sector in the country," Greenbelt was built around a park preserving its 440 trees, says Francisco Licuanan III, president of Ayala Land, the developer of the 23,871-sq-m mall in the central-city jungle. NOEL CELIS

Monkey tests . . .

From page A9

animals more alert than non-exercisers.

"What we found was a higher brain capillary volume in those monkeys who exercised than in those monkeys who did not," Judy Cameron of the division of Reproductive Sciences and Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University said in a statement.

"Specifically, changes were most noted in older animals that were less fit at the start of the study," she added in a statement.

More alert

"The next step of this research is to determine whether other areas of the brain undergo physical changes. For instance, how are brain cells affected and does that impact cognitive performance." Cameron, who presented her findings in a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans, said the findings should help explain why exercise also seems to make people more alert.

"While we already know that exercise is good for the heart and reduces the incidence of obesity, this study shows exercise can literally cause physical changes in the brain," she said.

"Furthermore, we believe the study results show exercise causes a person to be more engaged and provides another reason for people to make physical activity part of their daily regimen. This is especially true in the case of the elderly with whom decline in mental functioning—time is a common occurrence."

For their study they separated 24 monkeys into three groups.

On treadmills

One group exercised on treadmills for a set distance five days a week. A second group did not exercise, and a third group exercised for 20 weeks and then remained sedentary.

They measured the volume of small blood vessels, called capillaries, in the motor cortex region of the brain in all three groups of monkeys.

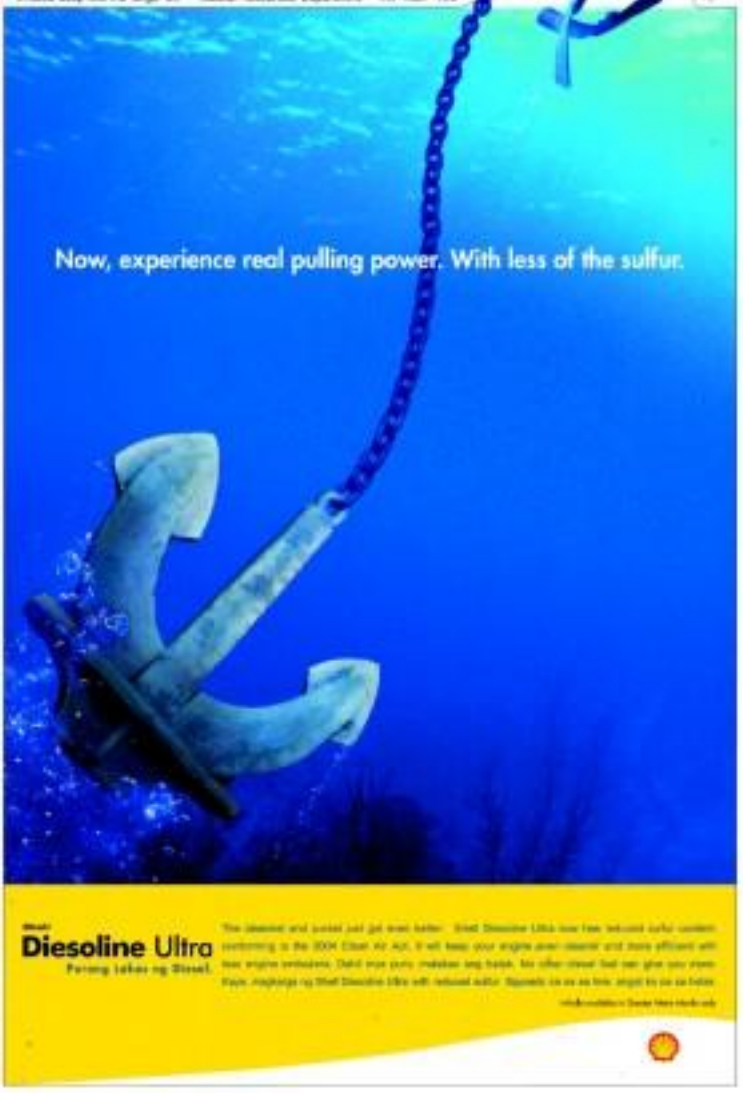
They also measured nerve cells' synapses (connections).

In one, a treat is placed under one tray. After a brief delay, the monkey was allowed to find the treat.

Exercisers were "more aroused, alert and engaged," Cameron said, although they did not find the treats any faster. REUTERS

The air we breathe and the city we live in

About two-thirds of Metro Manila's air pollution is caused by vehicular emissions while one-third is caused by industry. Fine particulates are the biggest problem, which are emitted directly as smoke and diesel soot and which can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Oil companies and transport groups have expressed concern over the deteriorating quality of Metro Manila's air, as they pledge support for the $280-million "Partnership for Clean Air" (PCA) project. Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, and Department of Trade and Industry, [illegible] companies will engage [illegible] awareness campaigns [illegible] the transporting [illegible] regarding the [illegible] standards [illegible] fied in the [illegible] Air Act. The [illegible]



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Namfrel insists on quick count

By Martin Marfil

THE NATIONAL Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) insisted Friday that it be accredited by the Commission on Elections, pointing out that the country's election laws mandate that a citizens' arm should conduct a quick count for the 2004 elections.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion told the Comelec decision to reject the group's bid for accreditation could not be justified as the law on automated elections states that the fourth copy of election returns should be given to a citizens' arm for a quick count.

"I'm hoping that Comelec will do its responsibility under the law and accredit Namfrel. We want Namfrel to be two quarters ... If they don't do it, it might result in more speculations," he said.

Concepcion cited Namfrel's track record of having participated in 16 national and local elections since Marcos' Law and acted as a watchdog in elections in 37 other countries. Namfrel has been conducting "Operation Quick Count" since 1986.

"If they (Comelec) are going to be doing 100 percent automated counting, then there would be no need for us to do a quick count. But it's only going to count only 20 percent of the votes, in manual counting, workers might get tired and commit errors and we know that in all elections, cases of cheating human occur," Concepcion warned.

But Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said the other day that the poll body may "limit" its tie-down so that Namfrel would only be given a copy of the election returns but wouldn't not be allowed to conduct a separate count.

Abalos explained that although Comelec wants clean and honest elections, it will not give in to Namfrel's bid to conduct a quick count since this would only result in "confusion."

According to Concepcion, there is a need for credible elections in 2004 amid the worst cooperation, destabilization plots, political bickerings and the resignations of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"We are faced with disaster... I am worried now. The (2004 polls) is crucial ... people are polarized by recent events like the impeachment and there hope to for clean elections," Concepcion said in a telephone interview.

"My real concern is this—people are asking for another bet-ter-quality poll and they are worried that there would be cheating in the coming elections," he added.

Abalos, however, blamed Congress for limiting automation to seventeen areas although the law mandates nationwide computerized elections.

But Concepcion said the real problem was that Comelec goes to to Congress. Now it is too late to have nationwide computerized elections in 2004, he said.

As this developed, the Department of Science and Technology has cleared 456 automated counting machines acquired by Comelec for use, saying these had passed the tests.

Except by one with an accuracy rate of 99.9998, all the machines had an accuracy rating of 100percent, the Comelec said.

The 456 machines were part of the 600 machines which had been delivered to the Comelec. The others are still undergoing tests.

The testing was conducted by the Metals Industry Research and Development Center of the DOST.

CURE BAD BREATH NOW!

22nd Nat'l Prayer Breakfast to bring RP leaders together

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor at the 22nd Philippine National Prayer Breakfast to be held on Nov. 12 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

Local Government Secretary Jose Lina will deliver the main address while Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople and Sen. Manuel Villar will read passages from Scriptures.

The annual National Prayer Breakfast brings together the leaders of the country—from the government, private, religious and other sectors—to reflect on the Word of God and pray together.

The National Prayer Breakfast originated in the US where in 1953 newly elected President Dwight D. Eisenhower called together the leaders of the nation-sectors to the United States to seek the wisdom and help of God.

The annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC became a world-renowned event, with leaders from all over the world coming to the US to participate. National Prayer Breakfast are now held annually in many countries.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senator Reynaldo Pons, Secretary Rafe Gelio, Secretary Teresita Deles, Commissioner Ida Tillah, Bishop Efraim Tendero and Rev. Eddie Villanueva will lead the prayer. Supreme Court Associate Justice Reynato Puno will deliver the invocation, Fr. Gerardo Tapiador the spiritual reflection, while Evelyn Cubeddu and the Encouragement Church Chancel Choir will sing spiritual songs.

Some of the well-known guest speakers at this event have been Mother Teresa, Dr. Billy Graham, Rev. Pat Robertson, Dr. Pius Xia, Sr. and Dr. Ben Hamburd.

Registration fee for those who want to attend is P5,000 per seat. The proceeds will go to the Betty Ford Clinic and Rehabilitation Center in Tagaytay City.

For more information and reservations, please call the Philippine National Prayer Breakfast Secretariat at 521-0000 local 203, 729-0000 and 893-3000 local 216.

Don't let Ping 'text' fool you

THE CAMP of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday warned the public against a group of text senders using the name of the opposition lawmaker to dupe unsuspecting supporters.

Lacson's political adviser Lito Lapid said some of the senator's supporters had received text messages urging them to deposit any amount in a specified bank account to enable them to win between P500,000 and P1,000,000.

Lapid said the text messages came from cell phone no. 0919-240-5380 and used the name of Lacson.

The senator, Lapid said, appeared to be part of a destabilization plot against the senator who has declared his candidacy for president in 2004. Lacson, a former Philippine National Police chief, has been embroiled in numerous controversies which he insists has either no basis or validity.

Lapid said the same scheme was used against then Vice President Joseph Estrada during the 1998 presidential elections and former Sen. Jovy De Los Reyes—who also ran for the Senate in 2001.

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Sunday SPORTS

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SEA GAMES BOOST

Wushu bets win 2 golds in world tilt

MACAU, China—Asian Games veteran Arwin Ting and newcomer Rose Catalan rewarded the Philippines with two gold medals in the just-concluded 7th world wushu championships here.

The Filipinos also captured two silver and four bronze medals as they boosted their upcoming campaign in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

The 15-year-old Ting scored 9.21 points to beat Hong Kong's Ye Huang To (9.20) and Kuwait's Hoang Seok Bosson (9.16) in the men's tri-antimond play competition.

Catalan, one of the newest members of the RP-national team, whipped Myanmar's Thein Hlhe Oo in the men's 48-kilogram finals in sanshou (sparring).

Lily So posted 9.21 points to take the silver in women's sanguan and then shared the silver with Hwa Lin-ruchy-Su of event, where they scored 9.25 points.

The Filipino bronze medalists were Willy Wang in qiangshu, Board Squirkaova (50 kg sanshou), Joseph Pacheco (60 kg sanshou) and Jennifer Lagdaq (48 kg female sanshou).

"I'm proud of our athletes," said Wushu Federation of the Philippines president Julian Camacho, who headed the 19-man RP delegation. "They gave their best in every event."

The creditable performance is indicative of "our (wushu) team's readiness for the Vietnam SEA Games next month," added Camacho.

The Filipinos shone in the world tourney, which lured 57 countries, including powerhouse China, Korea, Russia, Iran and Egypt.

"This is definitely an improvement on our showing four years ago in Hong Kong where we won only one silver and a copy of Willy Wang," cold team manager Edwin Pimentel.

More impressively, Pimentel pointed out that Catalan beat Myanmar's Thein, who has been tagged as one of the favorites to the Vietnam Games.

China won four gold medals, Korea and Russia had two each while Iran and Egypt took one each in the other sanshou events.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Yap sizzles, lifts Welcoat past Sunkist

[illegible] (Pasig Sports Center)
[illegible]

[illegible] Yap shrugged with quintet for Welcoat Paints yesterday, striding in the final quarter and lifting the Paint Masters past Sunkist University of Santo Tomas, 71-60, in the start of the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The 6-foot-3 swingman from Bacolod City struing up eight points, including two triples as the start of the payoff period that gave Welcoat [illegible] enough cushion in the face of Sunkist's repeated rallies.

Montalo Pawabop rubdued Fash Lapid Emergent, 70-67, in the second game as Jun Jun Salvador and former league MVP Gary David combined for 29 points.

Yap, who is contemplating on turning pro next year, finished with 14 points on 6-of-13 shooting from the field after struggling in the first two quarters. He also had six rebounds but committed four errors in 26 minutes of action.

Welcoat coach Leo Austria said, "It was a win, kahit saw pairo long ang panalo. Ang mahalaga, nanalo kami sa first game namin."

"Medyo nahabahan ako sa [illegible] kanina [illegible] ng 15 points in the first quarter but we lost it. Malaki sa lang ang respond ang mga bata, especially Jamal," added Austria, who also drew big games from newcomers.

Sub-A17

Justine regains No. 1 ranking

LOS ANGELES—Showing no obvious signs of ailing health, Justine Henin-Hardenne regained the No. 1 ranking with a 5-2, 6-1 victory over Amelie Cayrisat in the WTA Championships.

Henin-Hardenne also guaranteed herself a spot in the semifinals of the season-ending championships. The Belgian has a 2-0 record in round-robin play and has dropped just one set in the Black group.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters of Belgium defeated Amelie Mauresmo of France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, to improve to 3-0 in the Red group and claim a semifinal spot. She has dropped just one set so far. AP

He's not alone

From page A1

tion was an aborted coup, but said the police and military would remain on "maximum alert."

The Philippine National Police refused to comment officially on the speculations. Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, police information chief, said only that the PNP was still investigating the matter.

"The extent and magnitude of the incident show that it was not an attempt to take over the government," Mr Bataoil said in a televised address shortly after the siege.

Security checkpoints

The President said "no unauthorized movement of troops have been detected as of this time anywhere in the country, as unusual theories already are constantly being bandied around."

She said security checkpoints have been established around Metro Manila while monitoring posts in the provinces and key to-be areas were activated as part of government preventive measures.

"I ask the public to remain calm, cooperate with authorities and bear with temporary inconveniences brought about by this incident," she said.

Police matter

"It is an isolated police matter that doesn't need intervention by the Armed Forces," Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, the Armed Forces vice chief, said in a TV interview.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military chief of information affairs, said "the incident is not in any way connected with any destabilization move."

Even so, the military alerted some contingency units in Camp Aguinaldo, including the anti-destabilization Task Force Littlejohn.

Military officials also chosen played reports that a retired Navy commodore had been recruiting officers in Mindanao for another coup that would establish a civilian-military junta.

Lucero said that an inquiry showed that the information was not true.

The theory that the Villamor escapee was an aborted coup has been debunked by the reported arrest, meant for yet another coup attempt, the military sources said.

Retired officers

The Army officer said retired officers had been "already rallying the Makati business district among retirees in one another coup.

"They are getting their way because officers in the field are considering him," he said.

In early or two weeks ago, three retired officials were seen in the business district meeting with businessmen, at least three groups at the Quezon City office of a lawyer who is widely known to be a flower activist of Mr Macapagal, he added.

"These people are doing many things that are highly suspicious," said the source of information.

Some of the retired soldiers had served under the Ramos administration, he said, adding that the military was checking information that among the officers were former detainees accused of assault on Ms Aquino and ex-spokesman Eddie Tamayo, a former president of the Philippine Airlines Employees Association.

Civilian component

The source said the group planning to take Quezon City hall office was trying to revive the "civilian component" of the Makati uprising.

One of the groups, he said, were loose supporters of ousted ex-President Joseph Estrada, while another played a key role in the people power or uprising of 2001 that propelled Mr Macapagal to power but had a falling out with the President.

After yesterday's declared reports that he was involved in any destabilization moves, but admitted to being critical of the government.

"I'm not involved but I'm frankly saying our ways of governance, apparently, there's an inner circle. Maybe I'm not in the inner circle. There's no unity of governance," Abut said in a phone interview.

When asked to comment on reports that he was among retired officials being monitored by the military hierarchy for possible involvement in destabilization plots, Abut said: "I hope they come and talk to me."

Abut, a former ambassador-to-Rome secretary and Army chief, admitted that he has been reportedly in touch with Mr Macapagal in the crisis over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., among other issues.

Carnage industry

Information Sec. Jokes Lozada yesterday described the military that a coup-d'etat would only succeed if two essential components were present: full backing from the military establishment and the support of the people.

"They've made social-age exhaustive up to the point of workplans starting a coup, which ends before it even begins," said Arroyo, who was executive secretary when then President Corazon Aquino was besieged by a series of coup attempts.

Arroyo castigated military officers who delude themselves into believing that they are called upon by the Constitution to intervene when the civilian authorities are unable to get their act together.

He explained that the "protector of the people" clause in the nation's Constitution and the people, and not for them to make their own government."

He advised military adventure-lovers may to be rebellious and allow the Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Oakwood issues

Former senator Raul Roco, a presidential candidate, said the AFP incident showed that the issues brought out during the Oakwood mutiny have remained unresolved.

Roco, in a telephone interview from Cebu City, said the AFP's struggle to restore the integrity of the Macapagal administration that it can no longer continue to sweep under the rug the issues and concerns that were raised by the mutinous officers and soldiers.

Former Cagayan de Oro Rep. Jaime Ty Chiongbian said that talk of a coup was "irresponsible" and "should be discouraged," especially at this time.

Chiongbian, who has been charged with involvement in the July 27 power grab, said he agrees with the President's call for unity in the face of the issues. It is not functional crisis over Davide's impeachment.

He said he "whatever solution that should generate support and unity in the country."

He said the leaders at the Oakwood mutiny were "substituents" **With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño and Jhannon Engallanon and Sally Navarro, PDI Visayas bureau**

VILLAMOR: Sandy at Camp Crame are demanding a probe into the shooting of their father and Cam teller because they were killed the "criminals."

Ex-aviation chief . . .

From page A1

the gun ban the ex-cop said in bunch on "operators" against Villamor.

He included Villamor's name last June after Mr Macapagal banned a weapon to power grabbers citing advantage of the crisis resulting from the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. that they hated the full force of the law.

No excuse

The President rationalized the killing of Villamor, saying: "Nothing will ever justify the taking over of an international control tower and prejudicing the lives of air passengers. There can be absolutely no excuse to terrorize the public in this manner."

Raul Roco, a presidential aspirant and former senator, said DL Lawyer must have had a reason for his action.

"He himself built the tower [in 1994] during his time as CEO chief," said Roco, speaking in Filipino in his weekly program over dzRB. "Why would he suddenly turn his way in to the building shooting. Unless we say it was premeditated, we say he's loaded [Tinaagh of the same] that leaders wake up?"

Control tower

It is the control tower that orients the orderly and scheduled landings and takeoffs of planes that use the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Tower personnel update pilots on the ground situation, weather condition, runway clearance and other information that affect flights.

Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manalo said flights were operating normally. He said airport officials need another seven to nine minute operations during the siege.

Net power grab

Manila sun said the pilot of an incoming PAL flight from Vancouver, British Columbia, landed at the Mactan airport in Cebu City before the siege ended, fearing the passengers may become victims of the crossfire.

Breaking News reported statement that the registered in his message at 10 a.m., Sly Macapagal said: "The current, course and composition of this incident have led me to conclude that it is an attempt to take over the government.

"So, immediate but, movements of troops commonly related to the incident have been monitored.

"There is no cause for alarm. The situation has been contained. We will scale down our alert quickly as complete normalcy is established."

As if to prove this, the Presidential word silenced with her scheduled trip to the states of Cebu and Mandaue.

Despair, drift

Villamor and Castelltort, 38, seized the high-security, 11-story, high tower at 11:30 p.m. Friday and forced the supervisor and his two guards at gunpoint, including two women, to leave.

Officials said the two men were armed with pistols and hand grenades, and that they had also wrapped themselves and seized the door about explosives.

In a radio interview before the siege dawned the tower, Villamor expressed despair over government corruption and what he described as the sinister drift of the country.

Despite all my efforts to call the attention of the Congress, the Senate and the military, no one listens, is now maybe they will listen," he told dzRB. "I never here to quit because I just want to tell you that the Philippines will not go anywhere."

Moments into gunfire was heard in the background, Villamor hissed said: "They are killing us ... He screamed." Radio listeners then heard him gasping for breath.

Retired Brig. Gen. Angel Atienza, assistant airport general manager for security, threatened that the two men were allowed inside the control tower because Villamor was a former ATO chief and exercised social support ID.

"He was allowed entry out of courtesy," said Atienza, who added that authorities would investigate how the two were managed to slip in guns, grenades and explosives.

Apparently, this man is more of a disgruntled official," Manalo said. "He was frustrated with the several political situations, such as the impeachment of Davide. He was also apparently frustrated that his champion for a place in helicopter was never noticed. He had some frustrations and gripes."

Head and body shots

Villamor and Castelltort died of multiple gunshot wounds in the head and upper body, according to Chief Supt. Reynaldo Mercado, chief of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory.

Besides the autopsy the bodies were also subjected to ripper, blood, paraffin and ballistics tests, the police said. Results will be made public by tomorrow afternoon, Mercado told reporters.

Cars said a .45-cal. and a 9-mm pistols, two fragmentation grenades and a number of zebra. So called incendiary explosives were also found in the bodies.

Secretary Mendoza quoted ABC officers as saying they did not hear "any word of surrender."

Bomb scare

"You know, the door [to the tower] is made of very thick [glass], and Villamor and Castelltort [fired] it with shots," Mendoza said. "[The ABC] had to do a bomb survey first when the door fell through, they were met with gunfire. So they had to retreat first."

Cars himself told reporters: "They were the first to shoot; we were left with no other choice but to neutralize them."

He said they resorted to the "final option maneuver" because the shootings of the tower's windows getting in the way operations.

In a statement, former Secretary Jose congratulated the ABC for its "firmness and deliberateness to recover the control tower as well as the successful efforts of other government agencies in rendering the incident."

Research

Manuel Bahia, Villamor's driver, was detained by the ASG for questioning. He discovered [illegible] of Villamor's plans to seize the tower, adding that he had only been in the latter's employ for the past three days.

He said they were billeted at the Imperial Hotel near the Nido while Villamor was doing "research work."

Bahia said he had last seen both Villamor and Castelltort in the tower and was surprised not of the place along with the ATO staff.

Manila told reporters that Villamor and Castelltort were "gamed" of the ATO for the whole week, and that the second knew the airport premises since about 10 p.m. Friday.

He said Villamor and developing soldiers on air control systems and gathering "research data."

According to Manila, the tower is equipped with computers that is operated by the ATO, which has thrown security personnel posted at the entrances and perimeter.

VIP treatment

He said ABO and airport security personnel accorded "customary" and VIP treatment to Villamor because the latter was a former ATO chief.

He also said the guards and airport police had probably gotten accustomed to seeing Villamor and his companions going in and out of the tower, and could have "assumed" security procedures such as frisking, metal screening and bag searches.

Villamor was said to have smuggled in the guns and grenades in an [illegible] case and a clutch bag.

Manila said a thorough investigation of the "breakdown in [illegible] airport security" would be conducted, and those proved negligent would be punished.

But Bora criticized government officials who dismissed the incident as a "disturbance of peace."

"There is far more ordinary problems which the tower is considered an installation vital to security?" Bora said. **With reports from Alexis Papa, Christine V. Esguerra, Monique Ortiz**

'We surrender, we surrender'; then dying . . .

From page A1

the airport control tower: "Like you, I've been sitting complaints against the government. But did anyone listen?"

"All we do is debate, all we do is argue," Cleto quoted Villamor as saying.

His Magdalo

"There is no politics here. Tell them I want to do a Magdalo here. I refuse to go the mutinous soldiers that I joined [Gen. Oakwood Senior] Nestor Mafnas in July[," he said Cleto].

In another earlier interview with TV journalist Jessica Soho, Villamor said in Filipino: "I saw you last night on 'Debate' [the Oakwood mutiny anniversary debate on] 7 where President [Macapagal-Arroyo was a guest]. I could see it's all happening, that's there's no future for the Philippines."

Cleto said he believed Villamor's giving conditions for his surrender was a sign that he had [illegible].

But the chance to surrender never came.

Even as they were talking offair, Cleto said he could hear bursts of gunfire through Villamor's cellphone.

Assault begins

"Naku dyosdil! Pinapasok na kami! [Oh, Almighty! They're coming in!]" Villamor shouted.

"Would you murder us Kuya, [Are] you going to murder me?" he screamed.

Cleto said he heard the sound of glass being rocked.

"Colonel, I'll call you back," Cleto recalled telling Villamor.

He said he alerted another GMA radio reporter, Ces Drilon, of he heard and asked his colleague to inform the assaulting team that Villamor had shouted the word he thought would save his life.

But Cleto's colleague was not able to reach the assaulting team.

"The gunfire continued," Cleto said.

Cleto said he could hear "noises of other men."

"That means the assaulting team was already inside [the tower]," said Cleto.

He called Villamor again.

"Who's this?" Cleto recalled Villamor asking.

At this point, the phone conversation was put on an off-hook.

"Arnold, Arnold, ..." he recalled hearing from the other end of the line.

There was a veiled sound. I thought my cell phone signal was getting messed up," said Cleto.

He described a hissing sound that one hears when a signal was interrupted and then stopped.

Cleto said he could hear 40 different sounds – male voices, brief pauses of silence and then a long "noooooooooo."

He said a colleague in the TV studio on the line was calculated not to hits that the source of the thought were a directional phone signal that actually the gasps of sobbing men.

"The sound I heard turned out to be his last gasp for breath," Cleto said.

"What a waste. He was willing to surrender. He could have been still alive," he said.

Airport drama

The airport drama started to unfold on Friday when the 62-year-old retired soldier and commercial airline pilot seized a Boeing 737 official, Ricardo Castelltort, both reportedly armed with pistols, grenades and explosives strapped to their bodies, seized the 12-story air traffic control tower of Nido 2, also called the Command Tower, which was also housing Villamor's office.

He said 10 to 15 men had taken over the tower and planted bombs inside. He launched his attack around 6am, briefly shooting down the country's busiest airport.

But the two rebel officers in effort planes in other airports to derail collisions and told civilians not to go near the airport.

Police cars used the tower about three hours later to bring the drama to a bloody conclusion. Villamor and Castelltort were both shot dead by a special operations unit of the Philippine National Police Airport Security Group led by Senior Supt. Andres Cars.

According to Nido assistant general manager Angel Atienza, Villamor, his fellow mutineer Lt. Manuel Salas, and Castelltort managed to enter the tower's compound at around 11:30 p.m. on Friday night after Villamor was recognized by the security guards on duty.

"As a basic courtesy, the guards let him in," Atienza said. He also revealed that Villamor had been going in the tower for the past few days doing "research."

Food for duty personnel

Cars said that at some point during Villamor's seizure of the tower, he ordered his driver to buy food for the duty personnel composed of two men, two women and one supervisor.

After eating, Villamor announced he was taking over the tower and ordered the personnel and his driver to leave the compound.

Sounded 'drunk'

Villamor and Castelltort then assigned the top of the air traffic tower. Cars said the two rigged the door of the control room with explosives.

At this point, airport officials including Atienza, Cars and Nido General Manager Edgar Manda, were informed of the situation. He said the police had to "play it by ear" and isolated the tower to prevent it from sneaking home on air traffic.

Throughout the three-hour duration, Villamor was being interviewed by various broadcast journalists.

Manda said Villamor sounded "drunk and incoherent."

Another said one of Villamor's staff tried to negotiate by an hour and a half with the former AFO official to no avail.

GMA orders assault

The assault team prepared to attack.

Cars said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself ordered the assault.

"We had to assault the position to immediately neutralize the situation and operations. Because every second is very important," Cars said.

At around 2:40 a.m., about 20 members of the ASG's Special Operations Unit stormed the control tower and shot Villamor and Castelltort dead.

The assault lasted about 10 minutes. Journalists stationed on the ground scrambled as gunfire illuminated the control room of the tower. Reporters also heard windows shattering.

The men then radioed the two surrendered and were recovered in a 10-cal. pistol, a 9mm pistol, a grenade and other explosive devices," Cars told reporters.

Cars said it was the two who had fired first.

He said it was standard operating procedure for police officers to launch an assault to take back any facility taken over and to assure the safety of passengers.

No members of the assault team were reported injured.

Multiple gunshot wounds

Villamor was said to have sustained three gunshot wounds to the head. It was not immediately known how many gunshot wounds Castelltort suffered.

Manda said reporters that flights were operating normally by 9 a.m. He said another tower was used to maintain flight operations during the siege.

Jonathan Cars, the leader of Villamor and Castelltort were taken to the Philippine General Hospital in Quezon City.

In his interviews with various broadcast journalists, Villamor ranted about alleged widespread corruption in government, and condemned a government directive to channel bad habitat a place and helicopter design program to bad initiated.

Villamor did not cite any specific cases of corruption, saying "you only have to read the papers."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Monday he had later described the ex-official's commentary as "incoherent."

Asked about the motive for Villamor's action, Antonio told AFP: "It was a personal problem."

Antonio said he tried to negotiate with Villamor, but the retired officer refused to take his phone calls or radio communications.

Ignored inventions

Cleto said that during their lengthy off-air conversation, Villamor had expressed a lot of many things, but particularly about his inventions being ignored.

He specifically mentioned his wooden airplane invention," said Cleto.

Villamor said the government "diluted my program" to develop the Defiant 200, a small plane with wooden components, as well as the Hummingbird, a small helicopter.

"I had no government, no would not be governing before the Senate [Committee] on Defense [on] 1301-04 helicopters," he said.

Villamor was an assistant secretary of the transportation department between 1992 to 1998 during the Ramos presidency.

Villamor later joined mutinied officers in the Oakwood mutiny, but he led an effort that produced a prototype propeller-driven plane, made largely of wood. His dream that it would be adopted by the military was never fulfilled, however.

Patriotic, in despair

Villamor's former boss, Ramos' transportation secretary Josephus Lichauco, said he was "very patriotic" but was "in despair" because of what he perceived as lack of government support for his initiatives.

Although Villamor showed many indications that he wanted to live, Cleto said the former ABO chief had told him he was ready to die.

"This is my last contribution, my legacy to the decent people of the Philippines," he related up and still the leaders of this country to wake up," he said.

"I am the representative of 81 million Filipinos who are crying for help. I am ready to offer my life," he said.

Villamor said the control tower was built in 1994 during his term.

"It was named after me and it would be fitting if I died there."

A few hours later, his body, covered with a yellow blanket, was carried out of the tower on a stretcher and loaded aboard a police van.

MILF blames gov't for talks' delay

By Edwin G. Fernandez
INQ Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday blamed the government's failure to withdraw its troops from the Buliok Complex in Pikit, North Cotabato, for the delay in the resumption of the stalled peace talks.

Sid Sulaida, MILF spokesperson, said Malaysia could still host and coordinate the GRP-MILF peace negotiations but has yet to set a date for the resumption of formal talks because the Philippine government has yet to repositions its troops.

"The government wants to get away from the issue of Buliok despite its commitment to re-deploy its forces to their areas," Sulaida told the Inquirer.

But Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the government's former chief peace negotiator, told radio station DMS here that the government has already repositioned its troops in Pikit but left just enough soldiers, mostly Marines, to act as peacekeepers.

He said the Moro soldiers, called the "Bahaita (Peace) Army" have successfully implemented law and order in the area.

"A Marine brigade previously deployed in Buliok has been moved to Lanao del Sur," Ermita said.

Under the joint communiqué issued by the peace panels following exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur in March, the government promised to withdraw its forces from the Buliok Complex, expressing likes to community composed of armed villagers in the interior of Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

In July exploratory talks in Malaysia, the MILF reiterated that the government should comply with the terms of the communiqué.

The government peace panel, then headed by Ermita, had agreed to discuss the redeployment of troops and to work for the dropping of criminal charges against rebel leaders in connection with the twin bombings in Davao earlier this year.

"To date, the same commitments has remained on paper," Sulaida said.

Sulaida's not still in the Buliok, especially the Mission center," he added.

The late MILF chair Salamat Hashim used the Islamic Center in Buliok as the operation which main base after Camp Abubakar was overrun by government troops in 2000.

Sulaimon was again forced to abandon the Buliok Complex after the military launched offensives against MILF forces in February.

Michael Mastura, MILF peace panel member, said the government's non-compliance only provides opportunists outside the biggest secessionist bloc to the peace process.

"It takes two to tango, we have done our part, but the government has not," Mishaqkar Iqbal, MILF peace panel chair, said.

But in Zamboanga City, Northern Commander Gen. Efrin Rparidon said the MILF continues to commit atrocities, the latest of which was the Nov. 4 killing of a barangay official in Zamboanga del Norte. With a report from Jude G. Alipala, INQ Mindanao Bureau

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The WORLD

Edited by Lourene B. Santos

Blackhawk confirmed downed by missile

TIKRIT/BALERAD—A U.S. helicopter which crashed in Iraq on Friday killing all six people aboard was shot down, a US officer said on Saturday, as insurgents demonstrated their growing strength seven months after American troops entered Baghdad.

"We do believe it was brought down by ground fire," said Lt. Col. Steve Russell of the 4th Infantry Division based in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit where the helicopter was brought down.

The crash a day earlier capped a bloody six-day period for US forces, which started Sunday with the downing of a US-47 Chinook transport helicopter outside Fallujah, killing 16 soldiers in the deadliest single strike since the start of the US-led war.

A Tikrit resident claimed he saw the chopper being shot down and a soldier said it appeared it may have been hit.

Lieut. Gen. Glanz, 55, said he saw one chopper, flanked by another, struck by a projectile.

"I saw one of the helicopters shot from the side and I saw smoke and a ball of fire," said Glanz, as he unveiled a column of smoke closer up from the crash site.

The chopper smashed down on a small island in the Tigris River, opposite Saddam Hussein's former palace, which now serves as headquarters to the 4th Infantry Division.

The US response was swift. After dark on Friday, warplanes swooped over Tikrit, dropping several 500-pound bombs near the helicopter crash site. Then reds were launched around the town—a hotbed of resistance to the US-led occupation.

"We are targeting those areas where we have had attacks on coalition forces," Russell said. "We want to eliminate those threats."

US warplanes and armored vehicles battered Fallujah and parts of its hideous town Tikrit, 175 km north of Baghdad. F-16 fighter planes dropped bombs on targets and troops backed by tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles destroyed several houses which the US military believed had been used by insurgents.

There is the bounty of Saddam. Many suspect the fallen dictator is still hiding out in the region among his diehard supporters and possibly even directing some attacks against the Americans.

It was the second chopper crash in the area in less than two weeks. A Blackhawk chopper was knocked down on Oct. 25 by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), wounding one soldier.

The crashes have raised alarm that guerrilla-style insurgents have carefully watched the Americans' methods and tactics over the past half-year and are now starting to fire their missiles.

In Mosul, further north, a US soldier was killed and seven wounded Friday when their convoy was ambushed by assailants firing RPGs, a military spokesperson said. —Reuters, AFP

US missions in Saudi closed over threat of 'imminent attack'

RIYADH—All US missions in Saudi Arabia were closed Saturday for a security review after warning of a serious threat of attacks in the kingdom, the Riyadh embassy said.

"The embassy continues to receive credible information that terrorists in Saudi Arabia have warned from the planning to operational phase of planned attacks in the kingdom," said a recorded "warden" message on Saturday.

"The embassy strongly urges all American citizens in the kingdom to be especially vigilant when in any public area frequented to be American or Western."

In light of the seriousness of the current threat, the embassy in Riyadh and the US consulates general in Jeddah and Dhahran will close on Saturday, Nov. 8, to review their current security posture," it added.

"The American community will be advised when this review is completed and when the US mission plans to resume normal operations."

An embassy spokesperson said the closure might last longer than Saturday, the first day of the Muslim week.

"It is possible that it will take more than one day," said a spokesperson at the embassy in the sprawling diplomatic quarter on the edge of the capital.

Access to the quarter is controlled by police barricades, and security at the fenced-off US embassy is very tight.

Experts said take this day by day," security officials adding that reports that the embassy would close for three days were "speculation."

The embassy official refused to provide further information on the source of the threats.

Up to 35,000 US citizens live in the oil-rich kingdom, according to official estimates.

Britain decided to keep its embassy open, a spokesperson said.

Both embassies issue periodic travel warnings but the last time both the US and British embassies closed was following the May 12 triple suicide bombings of residential compounds in Riyadh that left 35 people dead.

The closure came after the US embassy renewed on Oct. 27 its existing travel warning for the kingdom, advising US nationals to defer non-essential travel there in light of potential terrorist attacks. AFP

STRIPTEASE LESSONS, ANYONE?
An enhanced tourist, right, walks for his girlfriend next to a mannequin in Paris' now famous department store, Les Galeries Lafayette, Nov. 7. On Saturday hundreds of women will flock to the venerable store for free striptease lessons from sexy professional pole dancers. According to the store, the Galerie's new lingerie department is the biggest in the world, with 1,000 sq. m. of brassieres, knickers, bikinis and thongs.

Annan urges Security Council overhaul

VATICAN, Vatican—United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived here from Chile late Friday after telling a conference on UN reform that "reform of the Security Council has been on the agenda for long time. But I sense a widespread feeling that we cannot keep putting the issue off."

Annan continued on his official tour of South America, which also includes stops in Portugal and Bolivia.

"Now is the time to take a hard look at and take genuine material instructions," said Annan.

The security council was shaken earlier in the year by unsuccessful effort to build consensus on war in Iraq.

The council has five permanent members with veto power: the United States, Russia, France and China. In addition, 10 non-permanent members rotate in two-year terms, without veto power.

Many analysts argue that the current system, built in the aftermath of World War II, does not reflect the makeup of today's more populated countries.

Annan stressed the rebuttle he supports are not aimed at reducing the power of the five permanent council members, but rather at increasing the council's representative character.

He said that a retooled council could give the body greater legitimacy, increasing worldwide acceptance of council decisions. AFP

Singaporeans seek repeal of 'archaic' oral sex law

SINGAPORE—The jailing of a police officer for having oral sex with a consenting 15-year-old girl has sparked calls for the repeal of a law punishing such act, the Straits Times reported Saturday.

Several of the 20 readers who had e-mailed the newspaper expressed shock that oral sex remained an offense under the penal code in the modern city-state.

Four sexual health experts interviewed said oral sex is now commonplace and should be decriminalized, 11 lawyers polled said the case for the law to be repealed is now stronger than before.

They were commenting on a two-year jail sentence imposed on police sergeant Jimmy Abdullah, 27, for having oral sex last year with a girl who he had known through an Internet chatroom.

Some reports said the girl performed the ordeal act willingly but had lied about her age to appear older.

Oral sex is considered an offense under a section of the penal code which states that "whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal" can be jailed up to 10 years or even for life and fined.

Reader Christopher Low said in a letter to the Straits Times that the law was "archaic," having been a remnant of British rule. Britain itself repealed the law in 1967, he said.

"Oral sex is part and parcel of intimacy and sex," urologist and sex therapist Lt Mac Ray was quoted as saying.

Clinical psychologist Yeo Keng Mainsfield: "A lot of people see oral sex as a good substitute for intercourse. They perceive it as pretty safe, especially since the risk of pregnancy is avoided." AP

Toddler pronounced dead found breathing

PALLEJOUS, Caldonia—A 20-month-old girl was pronounced dead at a hospital after being found lifeless in a swimming pool, but a police investigator later learned her breathing and she was revived.

The toddler's mother discovered her in the family pool Friday morning and the girl was taken to a hospital, relatives said. Medical staff there fully resuscitated child.

The toddler was later transferred to another hospital, where she was listed Friday night in serious condition, said Senior Thomas, a hospital spokesperson. AP

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N. Korea has 1 or 2 nukes–CIA

WASHINGTON—North Korea appears to have built one or two nuclear weapons it could be confident would work even without a test nuclear blast, the US Central Intelligence Agency has told Congress.

"We assess that North Korea has produced one or two simple fission-type nuclear weapons and has validated the design without conducting a full-producing nuclear test," the CIA said in written replies to questions from the Senate select committee on intelligence.

The CIA's Aug. 18 comments were made public recently by the Federation of American Scientists on its Web site (www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003/—hr031103cia.pdf).

Some experts said on Friday they had reported Pyongyang to carry out a test blast just as India and Pakistan did in 1998 to show the world they were members of the nuclear club, but the CIA's statement suggests this is not necessary.

"Testing would confirm (the existence of a nuclear capability) but it's not changing what they already believe," said Daniel Pinkston, a North Korea expert at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, California.

North Korea is widely reported to have been carrying out nuclear weapon-related work, short of blasts, since the 1990s to develop what it now says is a nuclear deterrent that is ready to use. Reuters

Israeli troops kill boy, 3 others in Gaza Strip

GAZA—Israeli troops killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy and three militants in the Gaza Strip on Friday four years to the day Yasir Arafat's uprising was launched, witnesses and medics said.

An Israeli military source said soldiers shot at what they considered suspicious figures moving on an electric cable in an area where explosives are often planted against troops, and that one Palestinian was hit while two others fled.

The source said soldiers later found no explosives had been planted there, but the cause in dispute to Palestinian civilians.

"I fell to the ground with my face bleeding and saw Mahmoud swimming in a pool of blood," said Nimir Abu Aowad, 22, who was wounded.

Witnesses say four other Palestinians hunting birds, a popular hobby among Gazan youth, have been killed by soldiers in the same area in recent months.

Near Gaza's Maghazi refugee camp, soldiers killed a gunman after a bomb exploded close to a patrol, causing no casualties, the Israeli military source said. The militant Islamic group Hamas said he belonged to its armed wing.

The bodies of two other Palestinians, members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade linked with President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, were recovered near the town of Khan Yunis after soldiers shot at Palestinians suspected of planting bomb.

Israeli forces in the West Bank city of Jenin targeted the local head of Islamic Jihad, a militant group which is sworn to the destruction of Israel, the army said.

The army said Arafat aide's was responsible for a number of suicide bombings in Israel, including an attack on the northern Israeli city of Haifa that killed 15 people last month. Reuters

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Love made her do it, says spy for apartheid

JOHANNESBURG—It was a tale of betrayal and treason that ensnared those who knew her, the televised confession of a white South African lawyer who represented black and white militants in apartheid days, sex and drink and jaloed with them... and passed everything on to the feared secret police.

She did it, she said, for love... and to boost her self-esteem.

For weeks, allegations that South African prosecutor was a spy for the apartheid government under the code name "RS452" had kept the country riveted.

Then came the bombshell. Instead of Nicholaas Agenbag, the director of public prosecutions, Vanessa Bronstein, now living in London, confessed to being the bearer of the code name, attributed to her in the 1980s.

She spilled the beans this week on state television.

Bronstein said her life as a spy was motivated by two things: her infatuation with her "handler," Gail Holtzhausen, and her yearning for psychoanalysis.

"Mr Holtzhausen made me feel special. He reinforced my anti-communist beliefs and I felt that I was doing something important for my country," she told the SABC's Special Assignment program in London.

Bronstein confessed on the spy ring late last month, following weeks of speculation about the identity of the mysterious "Agent RS452." Nicholaas—who spent several years in apartheid jails in the mid 1980s—was accused of being a spy for the apartheid government by two senior members of the ruling ANC in National Congress who are being investigated for corruption themselves by Nicholaas's unit.

Bronstein told The Star newspaper: "I was RS452 and I have had enough of the lies and deceit."

She said it took her up to the late 1980s to finally realize that the security police she had been helping were "brutal."

"I once asked Gail about detainees being tortured. He said they never tortured detainees and that it was all a communist conspiracy," she told the state television program. AFP

Lynch not raped, say doctors

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraqi doctors who treated former American prisoner of war Jessica Lynch disclosed on Friday claims made in her biography that she was raped by her Iraqi captors.

Although Lynch could also has no memory of the second assault, medical records stored in "I am a soldier, too: The Jessica Lynch Story" indicate that she was raped and sodomized by her Iraqi captors, according to US media who said they had advance copies.

The book—due to be released Tuesday—covers Lynch's experience between March 23 when her convoy was ambushed in Nasiriyah and April 1 when she was evacuated from a hospital by US commandos. It was unclear if the book also mentions an Iraqi records.

A family spokesperson, Stephen Goodwin, confirmed the book alleges Lynch was raped.

Lynch suffered broken bones to her right arm, right leg and thighs and ankle and received a head injury when her Humvee utility vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and crashed into another vehicle, Ehrens additional were killed in the attack.

Dr. Mahdi Khalaf, an orthopedic surgeon at Hamiriyah's main hospital, performed surgery on Lynch to repair a fractured femur and said he found no signs that she was raped or sodomized.

Khalaf, speaking at his private clinic in Nasiriyah, said he examined her extensively and would have detected signs of sexual assault. He said the examination lasted up an hour of session.

Dr. Khalaf said Lynch was taken first to the Military Hospital, a few hundred meters from the outbreak site at around 8 a.m., almost an hour after the attack. A few hours later she was brought to his hospital.

"She was injured at about 7 in the morning," he said. "What kind of animal would do it to a person suffering from multiple injuries?"

Dr. Jamal al-Saeidi, a brigadier general and head of the orthopedic department at the now disbanded Military Hospital, remembers seeing Jessica's motionless body on a bed in the wounded lobby of his hospital. He said a doctor was pushed steroids appeared to have brought her to the hospital.

"When she was brought there she was fighting for her life," said Dr. al-Saeidi at his private clinic. "She was in shock because of the severity of her injuries."

He said Lynch was fully clothed with her field jacket buttoned up. Her clothes were not torn, bruises had not come off, her pants were zipped up," al-Saeidi said.

Al-Saeidi said he found no signs of rape during an examination although he acknowledged he was not looking for signs of sexual assault.

Lynch had lost more than half of her blood because of a 10- to 15-cm-long wound on the left side of her head, as well as broken limbs that caused internal bleeding, al-Saeidi said.

"She had a few minutes, golden minutes to save her," he said. He added her to the operating room, away from the crowded lobby and gave her intravenous fluid and blood and stabilized her head wound.

Another US soldier, Lori Piestewa, died half an hour after arriving at the hospital with Lynch of severe head injuries, doctors said. AP

LYNCH in photo taken July 22, 2003.

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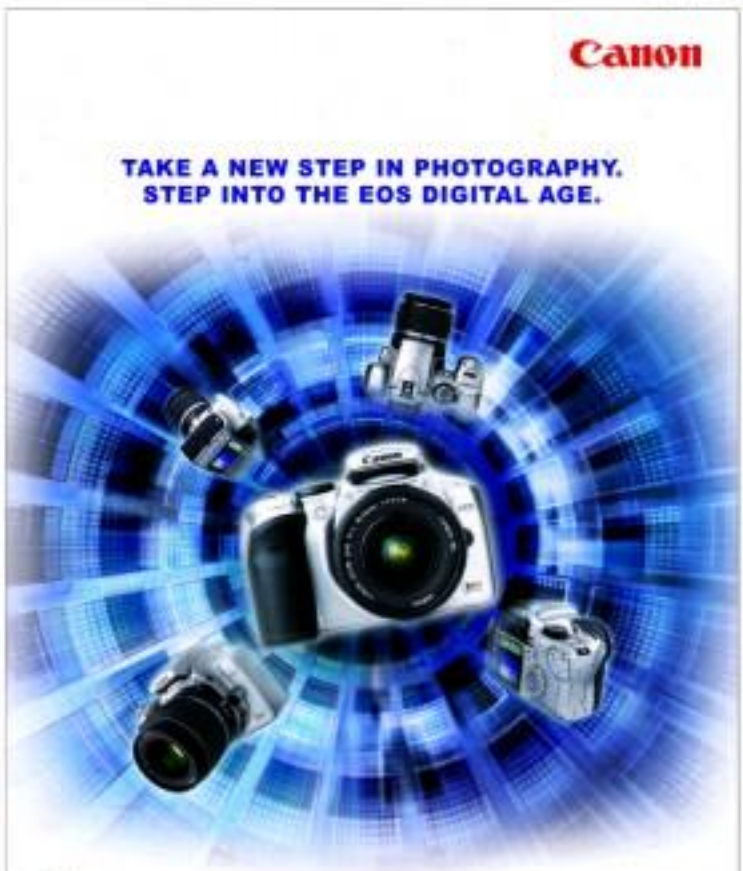

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Turkey decides not to send troops to Iraq

ANKARA—Reversing an earlier decision, Turkey said on Friday it would not deploy troops to help the United States secure post-war Iraq after encountering strong opposition from the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

Political analysts said the move would expose the problems US forces are having in restoring order to Iraq but should not harm ties between Nato allies Washington and Ankara. Turkish financial markets struggled off the announcement.

Turkey took its decision after US Secretary of State Colin Powell rang Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul on Thursday evening.

"After reviewing the situation Foreign Minister Gul informed Secretary Powell that the Turkish government would reconsider its offer to send troops," a foreign Ministry statement said.

Washington admitted on Friday that Turkish troops might not add to stability in Iraq, where attacks on US-led forces are a daily occurrence.

"Obviously, we would have preferred if this (had) all worked out very nicely to everybody's satisfaction but let's remember that the goal is stability in Iraq," state department spokesperson Richard Boucher told reporters.

"There is recognition, I think, on all our parts...the United States' side, Turkish as well as the Iraqis—that maybe this deployment at this time would not add to stability in the way that we had hoped it would," he added.

Turkey's decision to dispatch soldiers to Iraq, once part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, was strongly opposed by Iraq's Governing Council and Iraq's Kurds, who have seen Turkish troops based in their northern mountainous region since the mid-1990s. Reuters

Serial killer sent bizarre letter to paper

SEATTLE—Green River serial killer Gary Leon Ridgway sent a bizarre anonymous letter to a Seattle newspaper weeks 18 years ago in what the newspaper said Friday was a "brazen attempt to throw off investigators."

Authorities at the time wrongly concluded it wasn't from the real killer, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer said.

Now, police say Ridgway admitted writing the letter when he began confessing his summer in killing 48 women.

The paper said it had turned the letter over to investigators in 2001 and never reported on it, in part because of doubts about its authenticity.

"He brought up the letter during interviews," Detective David C. Reichert told the newspaper. "He took credit for writing it and sending it. He went through and explained what each comment meant."

Ridgway, a 54-year-old ex-commercial truck painter, pleaded guilty Wednesday to 48 counts of aggravated first-degree murder in a deal that spares him from executions. Most of the killings occurred between 1982 and 1984. Ridgway's pleas gave him more convictions than any serial killer in US history.

The letter, which was sent to the paper in early 1984, was poorly typed and almost entirely without spaces between words.

It began: "whatyou asthmaticbooths greenriverman" and "dancherwoman." Typed at the bottom was "calltheduct."

Authorities at the time discounted it, saying the letter was probably crafted by someone involved in the investigation seeking undue attention.

The letter hastened no reporter Miles Bachet's desk in Bellevue, Friday morning after the King County sheriff's office formed the Green River Task Force. AP

BIG DAY AT SANTA ANA

Philtobo-Mitra Cup championships on

DON Paolo (Medium Cool-Vica Royal) Trophy in PTO Cup

By Edwin Villanueva

CAN Wind Blown, Midnight Lady and Don Paolo live up to their lofty billings?

That will be answered this afternoon when the eagerly awaited 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships unfold at the Santa Ana Park.

"Everything's set for the fourth running of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup fun-run/racing festival this Sunday," said Silverwinds "Sonny" Silva Jr., president of the organizing Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization. "We're inviting all racing fans to watch this very special event."

Wind Blown, but on a comeback trail, is competing in the Pioneer Insurance Classic, one of the five major championships to be disputed in the twelve-hounding the late Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., considered as the racing fiesta behind Manila.

The main crème 'theme of the fete is having five other rivals in the 2,000-meter highlight race of the day which will also showcase the 2-Year-Old Colts, 2-Year-Old Fillies, 3-Year-Old Colts, 3-Year-Old Fillies and Sunday Imported Open.

Silva added that all six main attractions of the racing spectacle also hosted by the Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Racing Club, Pioneer Insurance, Turfway, PCSO, Hidden Philippines and Silverwinds Racing will comprise the day's five Pick Six races which will be called the "Superbo Pick Six" race starts at 1 p.m.

Midnight Lady is leading the Turfway tripartite Open race while Don Paolo is entered in the 2-Yr-Old Colts. Like Wind Blown, they are also favorites to be most easy to handicap.

Also tipped to perform well in their respective four fun-races are Flying Jordan and Lani Ibarra in the 2-Yr-Old Colts, Quixotic and Cat's Jewel in the 2-Yr-Old Fillies, Runners Envy and Sincerity Mauve in the 3-Yr-Old Colts, Tailor Cover and Silver Hero in the 3-Yr-Old Fillies and Absolute Charisma in the Turfway Imports.

Free Wind, last year's Presidential Gold Cup champion, is predicted to pose the biggest threat to Wind Blown. Hermie Esguerra's prized galloper who made his retirement race in last Oct. 26 after a six-month layoff.

Members of the Mitra family, led by Rep. Abraham Mitra, are expected to grace the awarding rites along with other Philtobo stalwarts such as Antonio Legaspinos, Benedicto Kalaghali, Augusto de Jesus, Francisco Cuyno, Ahmad Ving, Jesse Cuenco, Norberto Tiu-sa, Alfred Yuta, Johnny Tiambo, Michael Tiffauan, Jose Quirra, Edwardo Gonzalez, Francis Lopez Jr. and Joey Bojas.

Top officials of the Philtocom, led by chairman Jaime Dilag, as well as bigwigs of PRCI, Pioneer Insurance, Turfway and the other sponsoring firms are also expected to attend.

The field for the 4th Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships:

PRE RACE 1B — Imported 3-Year-Olds and Ups, Rating to Include Hong Kong, Cox Point, Cooperating, Emergan Score Open.

PRE RACE — Colts Local, Local Sire, 2004 Colt Crescendo I Love This Game Formidable Sky, Cool Promotion.

PRE RACE — Fillies Local, Sire to Mares, High Heels Lass, Wind Blown Song, Dancing Master.

PRE RACE — Colts Open, Strong Lady, Miss Ann, Handsome Devil Dilly.

CLOSED — Free Wind, Reporter, Wind Blown, Perfect Storm, Miss Dirty Laundry.

H.S. Esguerra Stable groom Roger Tolentino (left) and Willie Delima prepare Wind Blown for his up-coming workout. EDDY SOMLANG

'Majority WHIP'

ONE WINNER

Zaldy Villanueva

TABI is the day when practically all roads in Makati downtown of which is the Ayala-styled, traffic-hit Paseong Tamo, head to the Santa Ana Park.

Going to the Park from Pasong Tamo can be most time-consuming, build up gridlock in front of the main PRCI building.

So it's just appropriate that on event of lengthy proportions like today's 4th running of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships is held at the historic Makati race venue.

Never mind the impending traffic, it's a Sunday anyway and every effort spent in being at Santa Ana today will surely be worth it.

The Philtobo, one of only two homecoming groups sponsored by the bayang tawersan, is presenting before us the final day of its weeklong festival being held recently in honor of its moving force in the late Speaker Ramon "Monching" Mitra Jr.

The main of today's show are of course the gallopers racing set-ins in the six major champ. outings to be contested.

Leading the way is Hermie Esguerra's Wind Blown, "The King" of RP racing, who is flexing his trifecta muscle in the Pioneer Insurance Classic.

Then there's Paulo Benedicto's Don Paolo and Flying Jordan who are both tipped hotly to vie for first place in the 2-Year-Old Colts, while the Nino Hidalet's Incentive Story is said to be primed to take the 3-Year-Old Colts trophy.

Midnight Lady appears to be the main attraction in the Turfway Import fixtures, while Concrete and Cat's Jewel, along with I Love This Game, are the top contenders in the 2-Year-Old Fillies. On the other hand, contributing Tailor Cover, Wind Blown and Jimmy Lady are whispered to be good in the 3-Year-Old Fillies.

See you all today at the Park!

What makes us crazy: more excited in today's 'Superbobo 6' or the Pick 6 events making up the six championships in the Mitra Cup.

My Silky Boy sidekick ghost me his lineup but when he does, even bringing my horse, Rizer's his vote for the Sikiyoshi sipping zenkoo or make this as your mama. Ann L. 2YO Colts—Don Paolo, Flying Jordan, Empire King, Lani Ibarra; 2YO Fillies—Concorde, Cat's Jewel, I Love This Game; 3YO Colts—Incentive Story, Sincerity Mauve; 3YO Fillies—Tailor Cover, Wild Rose; Imports—Midnight Lady and Classic—Wind Blown.

Sa Cebuian "Bonie" Bacilio: Ba'il be a guest patrician in today's race-bird I have to say hopefully!

On behalf of the PHRF fraternity of horseracing in the Philippines, I'd like to thank the PRCI management for hosting our first general membership meeting last Wednesday night. Maraming salamat din to master caller Ian Bautista, who's taking care of our groups' horseracing needs for our induction on Nov. 23.

And of course, I salute veteran newsman par excellence Jerry Bella for congratulating us on our election as PHRF president.

Jerry, who is based in California, wrote: "Kudos for your election as the main fly PHRF! I hope you can turn the sport of kings into the king of sports during your term. Anybody hoping lehar?"

We're glad to see Philtocrat chair Jimmy Dilag at the Philtobo-Mitra Cup drawing of lots last Monday at Hotel Nikko. Jimmy's all-out support of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup drawing of lots last Monday at Hotel Nikko. There. The "Action Man" career with the equally-ebullient commissioners Eddie Jose and Sergel Cruz.

Joining the enthusiasts around that day were RP horseracing big guns Hermie Esguerra, Raul Mendoza, Benedicto Quiroz, Manny Alcaraz, Emil Legaspinos, Kobe Lizon, Anthony Tiambe, Jose Cuenco and Jess Mendoza. Big shareholder constituents Nestor Mandaluyong, Nick Alcantara and Fred Medina, as well as that jockey Jeff Zarate, were also there.

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvill@yahoo.com

Race 1—1. Wind Blown 2. Free Wheel 3. Hyperbole

Race 1B—1. Reggie 2. Lolito 3. Dragon

Race 2—1. Don Paolo 2. Queen of Sala 3. Wisdom Legend 4. Speed King

Race 3—1. San Diego Force 2. Mindless 3. Nobody

Race 4—1. Don Paulo 2. Flying Arthur 3. Blonde and Beautiful 4. Sunset Blue 5. Sand O'Blue

Race 5—1. Concorde 2. I Love This Game 3. Cat's Jewel 4. Formidable Sky

Race 6—1. Banana Boat 2. High Octane Dude de Mayor 3. Sincerity Mauve

Race 7—1. Midnight Lady 2. Absolute Charisma 3. Lincoln Pie

Race 8—1. Tailor Cover 2. Miss Dirty 3. Strong Lady

Race 9—1. Wind Blown 2. Perfect Storm 3. Miss Dirty Laundry

Eagle, Alta Vista pace S. Lucia tilt

CEBU—Eagle Ridge picked up from where Palms Verdes left off, engaging Sean Alta Vista in a neck-and-neck fight for the main filly in an explosive opening round Thursday of the 2003 Sta. Lucia Year Ends.

Eagle Ridge grabbed a one-point lead in Group B, Alta Vista team took control of Group III and both clubs shared the top spot in Group I, setting the stage for an exciting final round duel.

The game of Palms Verdes fell silent after making a big noise by winning two of the three divisions in the opening leg of the unique nationwide series featuring golf clubs flying their banner in rival soccer game Sta. Lucia Realty Development Corp.

The first-placed Palms Verdes team was led in Group I although Robert Galvez put himself on top of Class C in the individual standings.

Co-sponsoring the 30-hole contest are Primera Universal Insurance, Solaire Hardwiring Systems, Kodak, Tiblole, Sunpro, Omega and Pagcor with Manor Polo (Classic), Mactan (Classic) and Dusit Hotel Nikko (Manila) as partner hotels, Samsung, Yamaha Golf Cars, Skyjet Motorcycle as hole-in-one sponsors and Cebu Pacific as the official airline.

Eagle Ridge I made up of Hanalie Ogbuca, Hector Mole, Jose Supnet-cruz and Serpentio del Rosario, and Alta Vista Hotel Ahmad, George Hong, Ismee Hontoria and Ramon Sebastian I entered 13th to lead Palms Verdes by four.

The Eagle quartet of Danilo Olanzon, Merle Aguera, Jingle Lim and Al Pedroson, meanwhile, were all-even at the top in Group II after amassing 128 points.

All of the 2003 zing derby champions in the second Leap and NGA anglers are seeing action in Asiatec Golfarama's "Grand National 9-Hole Championship Derby" which is slated tomorrow, Wednesday and Friday.

Accredited Golfers Association top gunn Dep Rudy Alfonso, Ed-die Arasera and Lou Ta-Ynares, this derby is being conquered to an intercontinental-event because of the top quality fights to be staged and the year-round list of participants.

The second Leap and NGA zing derby champions include former ambassador Jaming Calamayo and John and Butch Macaraeg, bowler Bibsy Rodriguez, Jenny Simon of Las Piñas, Geo Ino Ynares, subway title holder Antonio, Boy Boys of Road, Congo president Raymond Wilson, Jet and Joel Fernando of Pampanga, Major Steve Aguilar and Jhep Rudy Alfonso. For other details, contact 911-1618 and 911-2928.

Charles in charge

HOWELL searches his tee shot on the 18th hole.

Derby champs joining nat'l meet at Araneta

HOUSTON, Texas—Two-time holes par Charles Howell III into the lead Friday halfway through the Tour Championship.

Howell fetted a 18-foot eagle putt on No. 13 and followed that with a 30-foot birdie putt to reach 6-under 134 for the day with another 9-under 67, making it the second straight year he has taken a one-stroke lead into the weekend of the PGA Tour's final event.

Eight players were tied for the lead at one point on a cool, overcast day at Champions Golf Club. Howell needed only two holes to separate himself from the others—and leave Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh two strokes behind.

Howell won a 6-under 134 and will play in the final group Saturday with 41-year-old Fred Funk (67), who appears to be rounding into form with the Presidents Cup looming.

Brad Faxon, coming off a 65-shot last week in Southwest, shot 67 and was another stroke back at 136.

Woods, needing a victory for any chance of winning the PGA Tour money title, didn't make as many mistakes as he did in the third round. Then again, he didn't make any pars.

Woods finished with another 73 and was at 140, six strokes behind.

Aurelia ahead by 6

In Oita, Japan, rookie Soren Aurelia shot two second-straight 9-under-par 63 on Saturday to take a commanding six-stroke lead at the Mizuno Classic, which she is trying to win for the third straight year.

The Swede is attempting to become the first player in LPGA Tour history with three consecutive victories in more than one event. AP

Miñoza brothers to defend Ubix-Riviera crown

THE FAMOUS Raul and Noel Miñoza brothers will defend their crown in the Ubix-Riviera National Pro-Am on Nov. 19-22 at the Canlubang Country of the Rizal Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

The amateur-related event-cum-golf sponsors' first fitness, the 144-a top hosts-duo who is handicapping the unique tournament to the tune of P1.2 million in cash prizes, plus golf equipment and the like.

Raul and Noel Miñoza are the second champions. Nick Konopka and Dennis Villa-Juan last year as Cargilos in the event that will again make sure Team Konopka through Team Sweden president Sidney Tabuena for this Ubix-Riviera Pro-Am set on Nov. 18 and tournament proper on Nov. 19-22.

"Everything is falling into place," said Commodore Danny Pineda (ret.), the Riviera president. "While the course is being readied to perfection, the cast is almost filled. This early, I wish to extend my gratitude to Mr. Bravo for his invaluable financial help in staging the event for the third straight year."

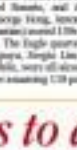
The tournament, formed of in 1996 at the now-demolished Fr. Bonifacio course, is one-ball, two-some wherein the pro-and his amateur partner hit the ball alternately.

"One reason I like this tournament is, it encourages camaraderie," said Bravo, whose support for golf goes hand-in-a-hand with other activities including the Philippine Open in 1997 in tandem with the National Golf Association of the Philippines. "Everything that promotes camaraderie is an endeavor that is heartily welcomed."

Almost 50 teams have entered in the series but that has the active participation of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines through its head, Jun Bautista-mio.

Among the early notable entries include Ernesto and Casimiro and JR Tampinco, Marlon Dizon and Simon Flores, Jun Cedrick and Leonardo and Jose Pagsanjan, Boy Pagsanjan and Ben Jones, Rodrigo Cuella and Rudy Amata, Richard Santiago and Bobby Bigo, and Roger Calaojan and Florido Saligumba.

Also expected to participate include the MGAP honorary chair, and MGAP president Syd Feliciano will hit the ceremonial ball together with others in the event that has four digital photographers, Caffe Appassionato, Pizza Pizza, Crispin's, E-Herb, Eureka, Okamura office furniture and Toyota Mexico Philippines among the major backers.



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Not more

ALMOST as a rule, media coverage of the eight-seat canvass invoked by the Supreme Court to shed light on the Davide impeachment case resulted to be of the screwdriver variety. Many news stories in both print and broadcast media kept score of the oral arguments as though the Supreme Court hearings were a basketball game: which side scores more points, wins.

The score-keeping mind-set explains why the initial radio and TV reporting on the oral argument presented by former Senate President Jovito Salonga failed to do justice to his reasoned positions that the high court had jurisdiction over the case, but that it should not exercise it. He was immediately classified as either for impeachment or against it.

But a legal issue is not decided on which side has more arguments, or more supporters. This distinction, in fact, is what distinguishes the judiciary from the two political branches of government. Our system of government allows our branch to make its decisions while insulated from popular passions, political pressure—or even public opinion counted through the media, in this system, that our branch reaches its conclusions based only on facts and the law.

The genius of this system is that fundamental questions of constitutionality are answered, not according to party line or election plans, not according to the political agenda of either the administration or the opposition, but according to what lawyers like to call the merits of the case.

The more fact that some of the country's best legal minds—the eight friends of the court consulted of legal experts, members of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, law deans, retired Supreme Court justices, practicing lawyers and law professors—could not agree on a single position on the issue at hand is not a sign of confusion. It is a sign that the law may be a demanding mistress, but it is not an exact science. It is also proof that, if the Supreme Court did not exist, it would be necessary to invent it.

Top lawyers may argue about the constitutionality of an issue, but at a certain point somebody must step in and decide. According to the Constitution, that somebody is not the Senate or the House; it is the Supreme Court.

Not higher

THE INTERVENTION of opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in the impeachment case was welcomed by the Supreme Court, with one justice citing him for his calming effect on political discourse. But his argument that the impeachment crisis is purely a political question, and hence outside the high court's jurisdiction, is untenable.

The scope of the "political questions" doctrine was effectively narrowed by the 1987 Constitution's "grave abuse of discretion" clause. This innovation was introduced precisely because of the experience of martial law victims like Pimentel, who suffered when the courts failed to intervene to restrain cases because of a cowardly recourse to the same doctrine.

Pimentel's idea, repeated in oral argument last Friday, that the Senate, once constituted as an impeachment court, is "higher" than the Supreme Court, is also a mistake. It reveals that Pimentel sought to intervene mainly to defend the institutional integrity of the Senate. How can one-half of one coordinate branch be higher than an entire branch of government?

The argument that provisions in the Constitution vest impeachment powers in Congress in one thing; the provision that these provisions mean that the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, was "higher" than the Supreme Court is entirely another.

Does this mean that historical conference committees are "higher" than either house of Congress, when they meet according to constitutional provisions?

Impeachment is a judicial power vested in the legislature; when the Senate convenes as an impeachment court, it can dismiss the Articles of Impeachment submitted by the House, citing constitutional grounds. But this does not mean that the Senate is "higher" than the Supreme Court. To say so is to indulge in institutional hubris.

Tower of Babel

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE are so many things going against the impeachment petition now pending before the Supreme Court that one cannot reasonably expect a fair and dispassionate judgment.

The most obvious is that they directly affect Hilario G. Davide Jr., the respondent in the impeachment proceedings, who is also the Chief Justice of this Supreme Court.

While it is true that he has properly inhibited himself from the cases, it cannot be denied that his influence over the Supreme Court still weighs heavily on members like a presence that cannot be ignored.

He may earnestly avoid meeting such talks, since like the lioness man that he is, but it will still be there despite his efforts. There is a bond that unites the members of the Court beyond mere friendship that no suspicion heyday to their Chief, scare and all.

The problem is aggravated by Davide's open confrontations in defending himself against the attacks of the impeachers. Even their Chief's belligerence and arguments, including accusations of judicial independence, the associate justices will find it difficult not to sustain him.

Notably, there are many neophyte members on the Court who are still hearing the ropes from the Chief Justice as their chief mentor. They are likely to stick together for longer or less reasons. They may also tend to copy their debt of gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who appointed them and her visceral sympathetic prayers for Davide.

The senior justices, while not as impressionable, will also incline in favor of Davide if only because they have stayed together longer on the Court. They were also co-respondents in the first impeachment case that was dismissed some months ago and strengthened their camaraderie.

The Court may have complicated the issues by decongesting so many areas for who are supposed to be constitutionalists. There re-

[illegible] were summoned that any bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, but for some their bodies have become fossilized.

Today is the Feast of Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. In today's Gospel (John 2, 13-22), Jesus cleansed the temple of sendery and money changers and in anger expelled, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." We all need cleansing, not only in our hearts, but also in our characters, in our families, in our relationships and especially in, in our country these days, even in the Church.

* * *

What's this "marketplace" that Jesus was so angry about? It's simply money, and all the things that money can do to a person. Money can contaminate and ruin a person's life, values and relationships. When we become involved in the marketplace, we also cease or later get involved in greed, deceit and manipulation. Have you noticed your life into a market place? Have you allowed the marketplace into your very home? When money comes into the picture, the purest and cleanest thoughts, priorities and core values can become obscured... When money talks, people begin to lose their sense of right, hearing, speaking and even their sense of feeling.

* * *

"Marketplace" is not so much a place, but an attitude, a way of thinking, where everything has a price and anything can be sold or bought. You know you have the marketplace in your heart when you see everything and everyone from the point of gain and profit. In the marketplace, it is difficult to find friendship, values, self-sacrifice and yes, even God.

* * *

The video Gospel for this Sunday (Mk. 12, 41-44) is about the widow's mite. Jesus points out the value of true and sincere giving over hypocrisy and pseudo-goodness. In every thing, God sees the heart. Without the heart, everything is a show, a performance, as well

called "support" may be the many works that will spoil the broth.

Each one of them may have his own educational viewpoint, or will simply echo each other's opinion, to only confuse the justices who may want to hear those "friends of the court" for reason of their own ignorance.

Notably, three of the consultants are former members of the Constitutional Commission like Davide—Florenz Regalado, Joaquin Bernas and Regalado Maambong—whose interpretation of their imperfect handiwork is of not taken as gospel truth by the Supreme Court. Jurist Salonga has already added his to that of Davide, and is probably will find Pimentel's.

Opposition are Hugo E. Gutierrez, Estelito Mendoza and Pacifico Agabin. In addition, there are the other petitioners and intervenors, including Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Rounda Macalintal, who are questioning the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Also expected were the interpellations to be made by some opposition justices with the usual verbal sniveling aimed at television and the newspaper headlines.

Given the time allotments for each expert (15 minutes, with requested extensions), the hearings will continue for days until they become boring. While guiding the justices to a certain extent, the speeches of the amici curiae, let alone the parties themselves, will probably do not more than hurt than help and confuse rather than clarify.

Despite the Court will not allow or require the filing of memoranda that will only delay the proceedings but also flatter the experts into thinking that they are writing for posterity instead of enriching jurisprudence. How time-consuming is the drafting of such a lengthy book.

In my humble view, the Supreme Court could have avoided all this hullabaloo if it had dismissed the petition outright instead of issuing that minute-size order. I believe it had no right to interfere at this point and rule on the validity of the impeachment move in Congress.

Art. II, Sec. 3(6) of the Constitution provides in no uncertain terms that "the Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment." This includes the initial determination of whether or not the complaint for impeachment is barred by the one-year limitation in Par. 5 of the same section.

If at all, the parties aggrieved by its decision may then seek relief from the Supreme Court through a petition for certiorari on jurisdictional grounds. The "sole power" vested in the Senate is not "exclusive power." Nevertheless, the Supreme Court has on several occasions reviewed the acts of the Electoral Tribunals, which are made the "sole judge" of election cases affecting members of Congress.

Judicial review of even political questions is now expressly justified under Art. VIII, Sec. 1 with the enlargement of judicial power even over cases involving the grave abuse of discretion by any agency of the government amounting to lack or loss of jurisdiction.

I think the high court has punished and allowed itself to be strangulated into the point of subregho instead of calmly awaiting the turn of events to permit its exercise of its review powers at the proper time. But time is not now but when the acts of the Senate, as the High Court of Impeachment, are questioned before the Supreme Court.

The marketplace

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SJD

Look at the things you are doing in life. Where is your heart?

* * *

As we go about our lives, we encounter different levels of good. The first is the level of GOOD BIG GOOD. This is the level which we are busy with most of the time. What efforts are at what motives are this level. The second level is HELPING GOOD. This is the level where what we say or find about ourselves is the center of our attention. The third level is that of DOING GOOD. There is a value outside that market or the good things. Then there is the level of simply BE-ING-GOOD. This is the level where goodness emanates from a heart that wants to please God. The problem with many of us is that we put priority over looking good and feeling good. If we are good and being good, then to be good and everything else will follow.

* * *

Abraham Lincoln has a beautiful reminder for all of us, who live in a world so full of hypocrisy and diversity. "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to the light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong." Skills politicians, government leaders, church leaders, are we listening?

* * *

Sin often, we think of hypocrisy as the deceit of bad people pretending to be good. However, the opposite could also be the same, that of good people pretending to be bad. That's true. I know a lot of people who are really good but busy pretending and acting as if they are bad. I don't know why they do so. It is because they think that being good is a sign of weakness? There is no greater strength than goodness and gentleness of heart.

* * *

We would like to thank Mr. Chan Santos and "Moments Ms. Enjoy" for having featured on Channel 5 the story of the 10-year old girl Betina who undergoes dialysis for renal failure! I am glad that the whole nation and even a great number of people abroad have heard her beautiful story of courage and hope. Thank you to all the good humanitarian who literally gave their "kidneys" for this frail but brave child. Some have even called us in to save their kidneys. What a beautiful simple outpouring of love! For those who'd like to help Betina, you may call us at 721 7451. Don't be afraid to be good and to be generous.

* * *

One task as Christians is to find and keep finding God in the marketplace. We have to keep on praising to Him, even in the marketplace. It is easy to find God and find God in a convent or a monastery. But the greater challenge is to find Him in the marketplace and to make present our God in the marketplace.

* * *

At the end of the day when everything is quiet, we will be left alone with ourselves, minus our titles, positions and possessions, minus our masks and pretenses, minus we succeeded God who loves us without conditions. And at the end of our lives, may we be embraced by God who will whisper to us, "My child, you did not need those masks and baggage when you were still alive. All that you needed was already in you, deep inside."

* * *

A Moment With Thailand

Lord, help me to remove the marketplace in my heart and make it your dwelling place. Amen.

The fallacy of the so-called 'win-win' solution

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

FLASHBACK: Almost 10 years ago, then Air Transportation Office (ATO) chief Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil disclosed the existence of the controversial document that the demolition of the top floor of the Saggittarius Hotel located near the runway which he alleged, was a danger to air traffic movements. As a result, travelers had to go through Iloilo City Airport to reach Boracay, causing huge losses to businesses here. But as early as the Iloilo Flight control tower the other night appears to be a tragic echo of previous controversial positions.

* * *

We are probably the only nation in the world where leaders, when confronted with a crisis or a difficult situation, talk about a so-called "win-win" solution.

Presumably, this means a solution which will be acceptable to all parties involved in a dispute. We are unable to face up to the fact that in any controversy, there will be a winner and a loser. Going for a "win-win" situation merely puts off for another day the difficult work that has to be carried out if we wish to put in place a lasting and permanent arrangement.

Last week, during the anniversary of the Philippine Constitution, President Marcos urged the boys talked of a "win-win" solution over the impeachment issue being filed against Ombudsman Samuel Martires. Although she did not elaborate, she called for a "principled solution" to the impasse.

Earlier, Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano met "amicably" with Speaker Jose de Venecia. Perhaps this is one reason he has been able to hold together, at least until now, the "rainbow coalition" he assembled in the House of Representatives. He has been all things to all men, and maybe more. But this time, he appears to have lost the golden touch which has kept him in his post for the last couple of years. He recently created a seven-man committee to work at getting Lakas members to withdraw their signatures from the impeachment complaint against the Chief Justice. We all have to see how it will all.

* * *

This is a story which you may have heard of before, but there is good on occasion to retell it.

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of Heaven, God was missing for six days. Michael the Archangel found Him on the seventh day, resting in the midst of God. "Where have You been?" God with a deep sigh of satisfaction and joyful pride, downwards through the clouds, "Look, Michael, look what I have made."

"What is it?" replied God, "and I'll've put it in it? I'm getting lonely in Heaven, and it's going to be a great place of balance."

"Balance?" inquired Michael, still confused.

God explained, pointing to different parts of the Earth. "Northern Europe will be a great place of opportunity and wealth, but cold and harsh. Southern Europe is going to be poor but sunny and pleasant. I've made India abundant in water and while others are parched deserts. This one will be extremely hot, while this one will be very cold and covered with ice."

"It's beautiful," said by God's work, then pointed to a group of islands and asked, "What are those?"

"Ah," said God, "Those are the Philippine islands, the most glorious place on Earth. There are beaches, rainforests, mountains, and rivers. The people are going to be handsome, intelligent and humorous. They are going to be found travelling all over the world. They will be extremely artistic, hardworking and high-achieving, and they will be well-regarded the world in bearer of peace and love."

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration but then questioned, "What about balance, Lord? You said there would be balance."

And the Lord replied, "Wait until you see the idiots I put in the government."

Waiting for word from the court

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

CONGRESS will resume its session tomorrow with hotel expectations from the public. If the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Maria Cayetano Jr. are to be believed, they will have the immediate submission of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

On the Senate's part, Senate President Franklin Drilon has assured notice that he will not accept the Articles if the Supreme Court rules that the second impeachment complaint is unconstitutional. The decision is anticipated at the end of the impeachment proceedings.

That leaves the tribunal as the wild card in the equation. Its action on the petitions questioning the constitutionality of the complaint would have a strong impact on whatever action the two chambers of Congress may take on the matter. And the principal figure in the controversy not least its leader, the task of resolving the issues would have been a lot easier for the justices. Unfortunately, like Fate, someone higher controls the events to our lives.

There are many indications that Drilon's words that the tribunal decides on the validity of the second complaint by its motion may come to fruition. At the end of the two-day oral arguments last Thursday before the tribunal, the presiding justice, Justice Jesse Bellosillo (who is set to retire on Oct. 15) did not instruct the eight *amici curiae* (friends of the court) and petitioners to submit their memoranda on the arguments they raised in support of their respective positions.

This silence is a departure from the tribunal's usual practice of requiring the parties who orally argue their cases to put into writing whatever statements they made in the course of discussion to enable the justices to evaluate them more carefully in the privacy of their offices.

Complex issues

The issues of the case are novel and complex. By doing the unprecedented act of inviting eight legal experts to assist them in the decision-making process, the tribunal has acknowledged that it is not a run-of-the-mill case.

Its ruling will have serious legal and political implications on the country. It will shape the future course of power between the legislative and judicial branches of government. It will define the extent to which Congress can look into the financial affairs of the judiciary without impairing the latter's constitutionally guaranteed right to be the master of its own purse.

As currently pointed out by one of the *amici curiae*, the 61 justices have the power to declare a law unconstitutional. It has the power to supersede as the final arbiter of legal questions in the country without treading on the powers that the Constitution has given to the legislature.

If the justices decide to rule on the case in time for the resumption of the session of Congress tomorrow, they have to rely on the many sources and documents before the judiciary in deciding whether the impeachment complaint should be stopped on its tracks or allowed to take its course.

The respective research staff of the justices have to work overtime to review past court rulings that apply to the case. They have to consult American law and jurisprudence culled out from the United States, from where the impeachment provisions of our Constitution were copied, besides the lengthy court process.

Unless the justices decide to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction, meaning, it is not within its authority to review the political acts of Congress, "force strong" (as the justices simply stating that they concur or disagree with the majority ruling) is more likely to prevail. As in the 1988 case of the decision on the legitimacy of the assumption to power of President Macapagal-Arroyo, reports separate concurring or dissenting opinions from the justices.

Legal issues

Landmark cases have a way of inducing the flow of the intellectual juices of the justices to compile their nine putting their thoughts in writing to future generations on ponder on them.

Whatever decision the tribunal may promulgate, it is important that it is NOT instantter or half-baked. It should be clear and unequivocal. Otherwise, it will only add to the uncertainty that the filing of the complaint has caused the country.

Aside from the issue of the validity of the complaint, the tribunal may rule that the second impeachment complaint is barred by the Constitution or does not comply with the requirements for proper filing. It may also take the position that it can only enter into the picture after the complaint has been endorsed to the Senate and the latter refuses to dismiss the case outright or to conduct an investigation.

Or the justices may rule that the complaint is of doubtful constitutionality, but out of deference, considering that it involves no less than their chief, adopt a hands-off policy and let the Senate decide whether or not to be a guilty of the offenses being imputed to him by some congressmen.

The tribunal is thus holding on to the ball. Its final motion rest is a decision of the institution to which the Constitution has granted the exclusive power and responsibility to have the last word on legal disputes in the country. Right or wrong, although hopefully it should always be right, its final judgment is meant to put an end to legal controversies.

TB stories

AT LARGE

Rissa Jimenez-David

WEIRD: ... Jacqueline McCloud has made a concern out of fighting the spread of tuberculosis, reaching out to young schoolchildren in Harlem, the four-footed model of her professional life in efforts to control the spread of TB in the United States, culminating in her election as president of the American Lung Association.

But her professional commitment is really an offshoot of a deeply personal encounter with TB, making her uniquely qualified to speak on "The Face of Tuberculosis" at the Capacity Building Training Course on "Public Advocacy and Communications for TB Elimination" organized by the UP National Coalition for the Elimination of Tuberculosis.

When she was 8, said McCloud, her mother died of tuberculosis. "I was told that my mother's illness took her mother, the disease had already effectively snatched her mother from her, consigning her mother to a sanatorium in South Carolina where she wasn't away for more than a year. "Consequently, my mother was the first victim of the consumption," McCloud recalls. "The first time, my sister and I stood outside the building while she stood at a window and waved at us. The second time, she could only look out at us because by then she was so weak she could not get out of bed. The third time ..."

TB deprived Jacqueline and her sister of not just the physical presence of their mother, but also of the simplest reminders of her presence when lives. Every time a letter from her mother arrived, she recalled, "my grandmother would read it to us. On our food then promptly burn it. When her mother sent them pencils bags made to occupational therapy, "my grandmother took out the cardboard backing and burned it, then washed the bags."

It wasn't just the lack of any momentous or "uplifting that we could say had come from my mother" that haunted her childhood, McCloud shares. "It was a disease you were ashamed of," she says, remembering her grandmother "constantly reminding her and her sister never to tell anyone that their mother had contracted TB and had died of it. In a way, by denying the specter of TB in her life, Jacqueline was also being asked to deny any memory of her mother. And it's this lack of any "mother-daughter" memories that

creative's earnest that she looks to this day.

I am sure that if I took the time to ask Mr. Ignimo if they had any "TB stories" to share, we'd end up with a bumper crop. I was sharing with another Filipino in my small "delegation," Dr. Rey Ofiana of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (and of Our Lady of Fatima University Medical Center), reflections on the role of TB in Filipino culture. Evening up, I said, I was continually worried by my mother that "Filipinos have weak lungs." Thus, my mom constantly asked for any of the cough syrup variety dubbed, Dr. Ofiana and I swapped tales of "health practices" employed by our parents ridiculed/praised in this day, admonitions never to walk out after dark with one's head uncovered for fear of "wind," warnings never to take a bath after sunset because it would "chill" us, vigilance against working up a sweat and having it "dry" on our bodies, prevented by the strategic placement of a towel or diaper on a child's head.

"They made little sense, healthwise," observed Dr. Ofiana, "but it was our parents' way of coping with their fears."

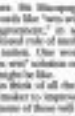
PERHAPS that's why there's need these days to remind people about the continued need for vigilance against "dread reappearance of a once-feared contagion.

In the United States and even in the Philippines, where TB is seemingly endemic and still kills 75 people a day, TB is seen as "a disease of the past," no longer a problem, no longer needing funding or interventions.

"We clearly underestimated TB," says Dr. Lee Reichman of the New Jersey Medical School National Tuberculosis Center. "Its known when cancers it, we

Reconciliations

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

PARIT: In her presidency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called the Philippines "a deeply divided society." It was a forceful statement, and I agreed with it. But I am not sure how the President presently sees it, and what policy direction, if any, it was intended to signify.

She could have been referring to the magnitude of the fiscal hole incurred by the last six years, namely the communist and Moro insurgencies. But the peace negotiations with the communists and the Muslim insurgents hardly moved under her administration. She was more inclined to pursue military solutions to these conflicts. The recent revival of peace talks on both fronts appears to be an after-thought, an initiative being pursued largely for image purposes rather than to bring these conflicts to a meaningful and just closure.

Or was she referring to the deep divisions left by the fraudulent elections, making her rise from the incoming head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Archbishop Orlando Capalla, who challenged her to reach out to all sectors of society for reconciliation? Archbishop Capalla had to mind a moral leader who would mind about short-term partisan interests to begin the healing of the nation.

But it is no role that is easily handed by political contenders who are in the thick of an election season.

It is time to reconcile with Joseph Estrada, the deposed president who still commands a big chunk of the so-called "mass" vote. Thus, the President now refers to herself as the "President of all Filipinos" and appears to have finally put behind the ghosts of both events will depart by the way. Her vague statements about Erap have been contributing, leaving little doubt that the government will not oppose his request to travel to the United States for medical reasons. Erap's former senior house arrest instead of detained in a military camp.

It is also time to reconcile with the Marcoses and their cronies, notably Eduardo Cojuangco, perhaps of whose wealth are the subject matter of Indon or held to recover pending resolution of

various long-standing cases. Bit Macapagal is now given to using busy words like "new arm to-ward" and "arm-in-hand against ..." in her addresses with this newly-professed role of mediator and settler of a divided nation. One wonders what the outcome of a "win-win" solution on the rumbustious cases keep back might be like.

Will the same solution run from the oil of the opposition for unifier or peacemaker to improve her stature as a politician, but some of those will earn by persuade a public that has seen too many political compromises being prepared in the name of national unity. In succession, Archbishop Capalla's healing president needs to show clear vision and a singleness of purpose unclouded by a consuming high mindedness. Though highly educated, Ms Macapagal possesses qualities she bears all the hallmarks of the nonsecular political culture in which she was bred.

Were she more conscious of the disparities in wealth and opportunity that make our nation deeply divided, she would have spent more time building social capital to reach out to damaged economy than campaigning for another term. Rather than push the country back to the status of a mendicant economy, presumably looking to the United States for collection, she would have instilled in our people the values of self-reliance, perseverance and hard work as preconditions of a meaningful sovereignty.

If any reconciling needs to be done along the lines suggested by the archbishop, I argue it has to be between the vast majority of our people who have lived without hope and their leaders who have consistently failed them. It has to be between those who have plundered the nation and the long-suffering victims of their greed, arrogance of power. If reconciling reconciliation is based on repentance and forgiveness, then our politicians owe our youth a huge apology for having misappropriated their future with impunity.

The problem with conventional political reconciliation is that they are nothing more than internal accommodations among rival factions of the elite. The dialogue that produces them, if any, excludes those who are voiceless assembled in the streets, who are not allowed to speak of the injuries and pains they have had to be. They are in no real position to forgive until they themselves begin to understand the structural origins of their own misfortune.

This is not to deny the power of genuine reconciliation. The experience of countries like post-apartheid South Africa has shown how the dynamics of truth-telling, repentance and forgiveness can clear the emotional wounds that begin rise and meditate do not address. Where the state itself has been the principal instrument of terror and oppression, truth commissions have resulted better than regular courts in rebuilding the foundations of a democratic order.

As a nation, we typically think of the law as ending those society, whose origins are other than the daily struggles of human beings to live in peace with one another. Thus, we find ourselves constantly in danger of losing the democratic gains by experts who are believe to have a privileged access to its true meanings. Our concept of law is not supported by a strong commitment to democracy. And the reason for that is the persistence of right-wing politics that include the majority of our people from meaningful participation in the national life. There is no genuine reconciliation without dialogue, and there can be no real dialogue without democracy.

Comments: to rmdavid@inq.ph.net.ph

THEY SAID

Discipline

"What we saw in Bangkok affirms our belief that the solution to unrest and sidewalk trending is not to drive away sentiment but to organize and discipline them."

—Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, after his ouster from Thailand

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.

Who gains, loses in impeachment?

A BOYCOTT of San Miguel Corp. has been launched by supporters of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. whom a third of the members of the House of Representatives, mostly belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition, have impeached for allegedly misusing the multibillion-peso Judiciary Development Fund.

Supporters of Davide are boycotting San Miguel Corp. because its chair and chief executive is Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., founder of the NPC. They are out buying the line that Cojuangco has no hand in the impeachment move largely because the NPC founder's stake in San Miguel was reportedly acquired with coconut levy funds.

Cojuangco has a lot to gain from the impeachment of the Chief Justice because the Davide-led tribunal had ruled that coconut levy funds were imbued with public interest. The ruling could cause the businessman to lose his economic power and the political influence that goes with it. But by impeaching Davide, supporters of the businessman may be sending strong signals to other justices of what they're capable.

Forces loyal to deposed President Joseph Estrada may also gain from the impeachment of Davide, who presided over the impeachment trial of Estrada that led to his ouster. Already, Estrada supporters, along with a group linked to a punchline, are providing the warm bodies for rallies supporting the impeachment.

If the standoff between Congress and the Supreme Court over the impeachment of Davide leads to political instability and its attendant economic problems, Juan de la Cruz may be the big loser.

The political economy of impeachment: A quick and dirty analysis

By Michael M. Alba
Dean, College of Business and Economics, De La Salle University

Most of the gems and e-mail commentaries on the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. deal with the legal technicalities, constitutionality, limits and arbitrariness of the chair pen.

What has not received much space is its political economy: (a) the motives, intentions, and duties/roles of the different personalities are presumed to be acting in their economic interests, and (b) the distribution of gains and losses resulting from the still evolving drama. Here is my quick and dirty analysis of the whole sordid deal.

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. On the one hand, this Marcos crony may be gambling for high stakes. If he loses the impeachment bid, his secret setback at the hands of the Supreme Court (which ruled that the sequestered funds had a public character) may snowball and carry him into oblivion.

On the other hand, he may have nothing to lose. Apparently, he has already succeeded in neutralizing before the Supreme Court, and sometime with the Sandiganbayan, which are likely to end up also in the Supreme Court. (And he does nothing to take Davide to task for the 11 or 12 more cases might go the way of the High Court's earlier ruling.

Yet, if he wins, he sends a message loud and clear foremost to Hayden Kho Jr. and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the Sandiganbayan, and business and political rivals: I have the financial and political clout to take out not only a Chief Justice, but one with Davide's stature and reputation. Look upon my works, ye mighty, and despair.

Perhaps Cojuangco's one weakness is the crown jewel of his business empire, San Miguel Corp. And he may derive from the campaign of the constituents of the conglomerate is threatened by the boycott of its products. Otherwise, expect him to fight all the way, "to whom it will go," to use Davide's own words.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. Let us sum them up. They are playing both sides of the political divide. Either one or both could later send to block the second impeachment case, pleaded. They had advance notice of the Davide's Sept. 29 letter to Dr. Severo the President was by rushed a copy), regarding the demands for receipts and vouchers made by Rep. Neri Colmenares, "Estrada" Pimentel and his cohorts.

Not another blood is finger. The President declared that extraordinary keep the executive branch from meddling in the affairs of co-equal branches of government. The Speaker claimed to be focused on stopping the first impeachment complaint, involving seven other Supreme Court justices. But the bubble dimension now: Who take a position against Danding Cojuangco and risk losing big support in the 2004 presidential election (in the case of URIO) and in the House Speakership (in the case of dEV)?

What their calculations failed to take into account, however, was the miscalculable enemy. The President and has since tried to mute anomaly by attending Mass at the Supreme Court, and by announcing that the anniversary of the attack most affects her is tomorrow. The Speaker has since "washed my hand" on a "win-win solution."

For Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental (a signatory), told ABS-CBN news on Monday following the Baldwin-era weekend that impeachment had been applied on him by Malacañang, because the President was shelling by the separation of powers.

The Speaker, for his part, has died over the Supreme Court's voting since order for executive access to legislative inventory be halted, for the benefit of the congressmates. Thus, to appease the pro-Davide forces, he announced that the House would not challenge the decision (yet), but will submit a manifestation to question the Court's jurisdiction over impeachment proceedings.

The President's and the Speaker's waffling may have left them the least enthusiastic of Team Unity in the Davide fight. The question for the President is, can she win in 2004 without the backing of the middle and upper classes? The may explain her beeps of late into enclaves of the poor. For the Speaker, the immediate future is bleaker, with pro- and anti-Davide congressmen threatening to secure him if the articles of impeachment are sent to the Senate in the case of the former and if Lakas congressmen are pressured into withdrawing their signatures in the case of the latter.

The congressmen signatories (or, it may not be true that their signatures cost P5 million each). Nonetheless, if they remain steadfast to Cojuangco's cause, they can surely count on his financial backing in their next election campaigns. If they are in the House of Representatives confined to the middle and upper classes, the issue may not figure in the next election.

Hence the three signatories, the team of the game for now is uncertainty, and the best strategy may be to let the storm blow over and hope the people will forget in time. There is absolutely no incentive for them to withdraw their signatures on an institutional basis at this late hour, as this only calls attention to the fact that they signed the impeachment complaint in the first place. Moreover, doing so will not translate into votes from the pro-Davide forces anyway. Instead, it will cause a withdrawal of support from the pro-Koup, pro-Macoy constituency.

Thus, expect the signatories to stand pat, unless public pressure becomes unbearable. They expect them to find face-saving measures (such as the withdrawal of the impeachment complaint if the Supreme Court considers the House's oversight functions on the Judiciary Development Fund, which will constitute a tactical retreat but which allows them to carry on the fight for Davide's impeachment). Finally, expect them to withdraw their signatures in groups, so as not to stick out in the public mind.

The game is completely different for Cojuangco's (and Roxas') analysts. Representative Prospero Pichay Jr., Gilberto Teodoro Jr., Gilbert Teodoro, and Francis Escudero, among others, being already knocked off, they have nothing to lose and everything to gain by staying in the limelight, where they can (a) attack the whips on other signatories, and (b) subtly expose their real interests, in application of Lenin's jujitsu sense that a lie told often enough becomes the truth. Expect the true public interests to grow more evident if the public outcry gains momentum.

The court employees. Now that they have the public's attention, the courts' rank and file are reaping more benefits to highlight their plight for higher pay. Their situation is no different from those of other government employees who are subject to the salary standardization scheme. Their frustration level may be higher, though, because the judges currently wrap salary increases in any case, their lack of sympathy for Davide weakens his case before the public. It creates the impression that the Chief Justice has been unconscionable after all, and securing it worse, about the welfare of his co-workers.

The fringe forces. They are an opportunity to get back at Davide who presided over the Erap impeachment court and who, they allege, acted prematurely in executing in his favor. They also see more favorable prospects for Erap's plunder cases if Davide is ousted.

The country at large. As everyone knows, the Philippines is already the biggest loser whatever the outcome of the case. Foreign and local investors and entrepreneurs cannot but wonder: Would investing in the Philippines be worthwhile if the impeachment process can be so trivialized, and if the judiciary's independence can be so threatened? Reduced investments means lower jobs and lower growth. They may also assume a more pessimistic disbursement of wealth and income, as ownership of assets and businesses become more concentrated on those with political muscle.

Our democratic system is at stake

By Rep. Corazon R. Antonino-Candelaria
Lawyer, Fourth Congress and Univ. Justice Chip

The nation is heading toward a constitutional crisis. If the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. is not resolved wisely and prudently, the country will be the loser. Democracy in the country will be dealt a staggering blow, perhaps a fatal one. We can lose our liberties. There will be no guarantee, only losers. On the other hand, if the issue is resolved according to settled constitutional processes, all and people will be the winners, for then our government institutions could be said to have passed a crucial test.

After the Edsa II event, that led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001, foreign analysts, including former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, considered that the seventeen showed the weaknesses of Philippine democratic institutions.

The reason given was that the impeachment process involving then President Estrada was incomplete entirely in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the issue was finally resolved in the streets.

Today, the supremacy of the Constitution is again being tested. The Supreme Court has issued a "status quo" order to Congress, sending its brain to Do House the resolution impeaching the Chief Justice, while the Court holds hearings on petitions questioning its constitutionality.

The House, on the other hand, has informed the Court that it has no jurisdiction over the impeachment process that is a sole prerogative of Congress.

Various legal luminaries have argued before the Supreme Court the pros and cons of the issue. The people themselves are divided, confused and in suspense. However, as the issue is resolved, it would affect the future and stability of the nation.

At stake is the survival of our democratic system that sets up the harmonious and effective workings of the three branches of our government, namely, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

All, under the Constitution, are independent, co-equal and coordinate, with separate powers, and the right and duty to check and balance each other.

Triangle

If any of these branches fail in its tasks assigned by the Constitution, the whole structure of government will collapse, just like a triangle that loses one of its legs. Therefore, in resolving the issue, none of the three branches should be impaired. They should instead emerge strengthened by the test. It is after all through essential wear that an instrument or edifice can be assessed for its strength or weaknesses.

How do we strengthen the institutions? By making them weak. Institutions can be compared to the body. The body weakens if it does not function well. Similarly, if properly Congress functions to legislate, the Executive is entitled to enforce the laws and the Courts to judge whether or not the laws conform to the Constitution. They are also assigned the task of balancing each other, to check abuses by the other branches—the Legislature through the power of the purse or the right to sue and to spend, the Executive to veto any passed by Congress and the Supreme Court to interpret the laws based on judicial questions. It is this interplay, system of checks and balances that keeps our democratic system together.

Prerogative

The House of Representatives believes that the power of impeachment is its sole prerogative, while the role of the Senate is to constitute itself as an impeachment court to try impeachment complaints. On the other hand, the Court deliberates whether it has the right to declare the impeachment complaints signed by more than one-third of the members of the House as unconstitutional. The Executive, in the person of President Macapagal-Arroyo, presents a "covenant" as a "win-win" which in effect would delay the submission of the impeachment complaint to the Senate for trial.

This is where the situation stands. Clearly, the case requires a federalistic decision that will call not for the division of the nation, but for its unity.

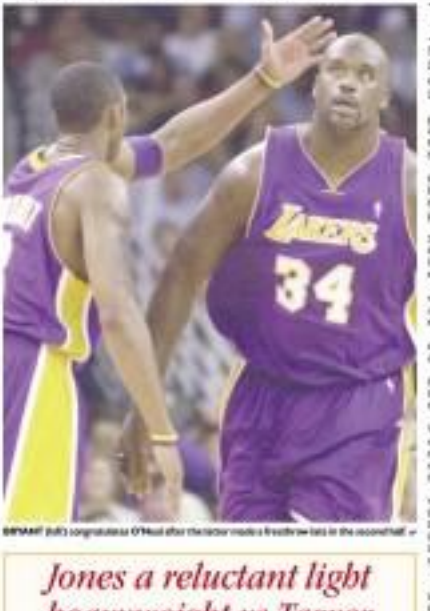
If the Senate agrees to the "covenant," would it strengthen the Senate as the tribune and voice of the people?

And what about the Senate? If it allows the Executive to decide matters concerning cases of impeachment, would it not be abandoning its duty to judge impeachment cases? And should the Executive take sides in a basic difference of opinion between two co-equal branches of government without breaching the rule of the independence and equality of the branches of government?

These are crucial questions. The way they are answered could affect the fate and future of our people. They would either strengthen the rights of the people, or destroy their unity or endanger their liberties.

Hornets sting Lakers

Bryant and Co. suffer 1st loss this season



BRYANT (left) congratulates O'Neal after the latter made a free throw late in the second half. AP

NEW ORLEANS—Baron Davis was too quick and too accurate for Kobe Bryant, and the New Orleans Hornets became the first team in the NBA this season to defeat the revamped Los Angeles Lakers with a 114-96 victory.

Davis made four 3-pointers and scored 23 points with 12 assists and four steals Friday, overwhelming his one-on-one matchup with Bryant to such a degree that the Lakers were forced to switch other defenders onto him.

Davis got plenty of help. P.J. Brown shot 7-for-7 and scored 20 points with seven rebounds, David Wesley added 17 points and five assists and George Lynch scored 15 to give six players in double figures.

One night after a double-overtime victory over San Antonio that lasted more than 3 1/2 hours, the Lakers didn't have the legs to keep up with the Hornets during a 28-10 third-quarter rally that turned a one-point deficit into a 17-point lead.

Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points for the Lakers, who were also without Gary Payton, who added 11, shooting 4-for-14 while hosting the fewest boos thus far did the previous eight in San Antonio.

New Orleans improved to 5-1, matching the best six-game start in franchise history, despite playing without Jamal Mashburn.

In Washington, Toronto set records for offensive futility again, scoring just four points in the second quarter and a franchise-low 22 in the first half of an 89-60 loss to Washington.

Larry Hughes scored 26 points to pace the Wizards, who led 51-23 at halftime and took over by pacing the tempo and controlling the boards. In the second quarter, Washington outscored Toronto 29-4 in the period—tying a franchise low for the Raptors.

The half of ineptitude came exactly one week after the Wizards held the Raptors to a franchise-low 27 first-half points in an 80-79 Raptors win at Toronto. The next day the Raptors fired Lenny Wilkens and Toronto's 11-point deficit at halftime was a franchise low tied in a 73-56 loss.

Complete results

Washington 89, Toronto 60; New Jersey 94, Boston 82; Indiana 91, Cleveland 83; New York 104, Sacramento 101; DENVER 120, Milwaukee 92; San Antonio 119, ATLANTA 92; Minnesota 108, Chicago 86; LA Clippers 104, Detroit 103; Golden State 116, Seattle 108; Portland 87, AP

Jones a reluctant light heavyweight vs Tarver

JONES

LAS VEGAS—Roy Jones Jr. really didn't want to do this, and not just because he had to step up in weight for a while. Surely he figured, there were better fights out there for a five-time welterweight champion who had just made history.

Stanislav Ledyshkin was his first choice, but that couldn't be reached one. Cities with Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis.

So instead of fighting a second-tier heavyweight, Jones locked down, all the way down in the light heavyweight division he used to rule. There he found reasonable Tarver wearing his former belts, and talking just enough trash to provide some motivation.

Now he had another problem—dropping all the weight he put on to fight John Ruiz to become only the second light heavyweight champion to win the heavyweight title a few months ago.

"You're hungry, skinny half the time. You start taking on your frustrations on everybody you're close around. Jones said. "I wouldn't go down on this outright for nobody else but him. I wanted him to have the best opponent he could have so I came down for him to his weight."

That mission accomplished, Jones meets Tarver for the WBC 79-kilogram (175-pound) title Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) in what will likely be his last fight ever as a light heavyweight.

He's not too happy about having to lose the weight—he was 87 kilograms (192 pounds) for his last Jones is more than eager to put on a show against a fighter he believes hasn't shown him the proper respect.

AP

RP GMs triumph

FILIPINO GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Rong Villamayor were their first round matches in the 15 de Open van Leuven international chess championships in Leuven, Belgium, Friday.

Torre defeated Lionel Jon Filip Bosmans; Antonio trounced Jonas Verplaetsen with black; while Villamayor beat Bart Theys.

The RP6-ranked Torre is poised to have Jiri Fleisk, Bangkok Open champion Atanas Kolev, Stathis Verlet, while sixth-ranked Villamayor will battle Jan Roppin in Round 2.

AM Marlon Bernardino

Yap sizzles . . .

From page 16

re 10: Reyes and Ervin Sotto.

Olympians:

BEIJING 91—Yap 14, Sotto 14, Pogoy 8, Sangley 8, Wilson 7, Arnaiz 4, Omolon 3, Sean 2, Fernandez 2, Lopez 2, Torres 2.

MANILA 69 (de Joseph) 14, Cruz 12, Lyon 11, Mendoza 8, Dela 5, Alfaro 5, Lastimosa 5, De Guzman 2, Santos 2.

Quarters: 23-18, 39-32, 59-45, 91-69.

Second game:

ATENEO 78—Salvador 16, Ravel 12, Manuel 10, Ramos 7, Alfaro 7, Guerrero 6, Alvendia 6, Carandang 2.

DLSU 71—Cruz 17, Alvarez 15, Tan 8, Salangsang 7, Bernardo 6, Gonzalez 4, Acosta 4, Reyes 3, Ilo 0.

Quarters: 17-20, 34-29, 48-43, 78-69.

Pinoy skier best Asian finisher

ACE Filipino ski ski rider Paul del Rosario of Pereira Hermanos Jeepneys achieved another milestone as he emerged the top team finisher in the World Ski Ski Finals at Lake Havasu, Arizona.

Del Rosario, also backed by federal Inc. and Manila Cordage, wound up fourth overall in the hotly contested Expert 1200 Limited Class—his best finish ever since joining the annual world event in 1996.

He finished third overall in the slalom, clocking a best time of 23.74 seconds that even upstaged World Professional Champion Cedar Winslow of Brazil's Fly Racing and later took fourth place in the Closed course event.

It was the highest achievement by a 10-spins in the said world event. Last year, Del Rosario and Carlo Bulseo made it among the top ten finalists.

I called him Domeng. But before that, I called him Lo.

Domeng was my literature teacher in college. The first day of our class, I made sure I'd make his hand after his lecture.

"Sir, I feel very lucky to have you as my teacher." I said to him.

"Thank you," he said. "Do you write?"

"Yes, sir, I write."

"Good," Domeng said. "In that case for the rest of your life."

He ended up drinking in that moment, but in the years of Cesar Aquino and Bevin. Calming his love glass, Domeng said to me: "From now on, don't call me Sir. Just call me Domeng."

I was stunned. Meekly, I replied: "I guess I can't do that, Sir."

Domeng said: "You need to. Otherwise, there's no point drinking with you if you can't drink with people who are not my ex-pupil."

At first, I found it difficult to call him Domeng. He was not only my "Sir", he was also my idol. Only on my 11th, 12th freshman year that I had come in contact with. Before we met, my literature had been done mainly in English; the reason being that I grew up in Negros. At in high school, I also became the literary editor of our college organ and, quite unfortunately, my writing then was mainly limited to Filipino—if not to Filipino, among them the eminent Edgardo M. Reyes. Efren Abueg and the late Rogelio Ilone. He did the introduction of my first book that was published in 1993. They served the first major breakthrough in Tagalog literature with their book, "Agos sa Disyerto," the Bible of Filipino literature buffs. Not for long, they all became first-name basis to me. They called me Ed, they "Sabi."

When my first short story in Filipino was first prize in a school-wide competition (fell in), title was second, and Rogelio Sicolar third), it was Domeng who was the happiest, for he didn't know I joined the contest.

"Let's have it published in the Philippine Free Press," Domeng told to me.

He accompanied me to literature. It was there that I first met Ben Lacaba, the poet-essayist-reporter-essayist, who was the magazine's executive editor. It was also there that I met Domeng on an time. The short story came out and, was I glad it became one of the magazine's best seven stories for the year, with Art Pena Jacob's "Ang Pagdating ni Elias Pilotdad" winning top honors as did Penny Garcia's "Sandaang Sanay."

Even in death, there is art.

The gathering of literary luminaries at Dec. 01 Nov. 2 did not only prove that Domeng was a literary figure. He was, more importantly, bigger than art.

How can I be his ex-pupil?

Sportswatch

Tour of Manila reels off today

THE SIXTH tour tour of Manila bicycle race will kick off today at the Makati City Sports Park. It is one of PH riders, all veterans of Tour of Luzon's four-round, will race on an out-and-back 113-km course the race management group Philippine National Cycling Association has strategically laid out to circle Metro Manila. The event, one of three major races put up by the Tour Philippines Inc. and principally backed by Air21 this November, offers a total prize of P180,000. The winner of the tour also sponsored by FedEx and Mail and More and BPI-MS Sakyan and Lopez will bring home P75,000. Arnel Sarmiento, the pride of Mindanao, Pangasinan, is the favorite.

Mexico eliminates US sluggers

MEXICO CITY, Panama — The United States will not attend its Olympic Games fifth in Athens next year after it was eliminated 5-1 by Mexico in the American Olympic qualifying tournament Friday. The US team was among the favorites to win the gold medal again, and there was a chance New York Yankees ace Roger Clemens would have pitched for the American team in Athens. But pitching Mike Cuellar fanned five of Panias Frank Robinson's club to the quarterfinal game, getting a lone-inning home run in the ninth inning from Luis E. Garcia of Urban Group. The United States threatened to the bottom of the ninth, getting two men on base, but reliever Bob Wickman got the final two outs to preserve the victory. "It was a well-pitched game by both teams," Mexico manager Jose Cuellar said. "We were not able to do much until the ninth inning and it was not enough."

AP

Religon I-cock derby stakes P1.1M

THE BIGGEST opener of the 2003-2004 cock season will happen at Religon Mega Complex via the "Sportsmen Inc. Incredible Pre-Cock Derby" on Nov. 29. Inc. 3, 4 mains, with a whopping total of P1.25 million. Director Rudy Ong said the entry fee is a relatively affordable one for sensitive cockers: P8,888, that's why the total number of entries may reach to 300. The fastest win champion will also get a bonus of an imported Nissan Serena now on display at Religon lobby. 80 becommers in the elimination rounds (Nov. 29, Dec. 2 and 6) will be shared in the P80,000 derby purse, while the second to 8 winners get P50,000. Six champion-handlers will get P10,000 each and other winners P7,000 and P6,000 respectively. For details, call 850-1111 and 850-1608.

Carunche badminton meet slated

A TOTAL of 11 individual titles and one grand team title are at stake in the first 3-million Carunche Memorial Badminton Cup slated Nov. 29 22nd the Badminton Center in Pasay. The two-day event is sponsored by Mr. Carunche, Carunche Corporation Foundation, Carunche, Star Mercedes branch, Marijoses Hotel and Don Mercedes Pics. Players may register until Nov. 19 at the tournament venue. Contact persons are Gene Perez (850-4000 loc 1) and Boogie Chua (851-508 1486).

Power Smash hosts Executive Cup

THE 101 Smash Badminton Tournament Executive Cup will be held on Nov. 15-16 and 22-23 at Power Smashers Pasong Tamo, Makati. Among the participants are RSBC BPI, Orna Bank, Allied Bank, Good Year, McDonald's, PNB, Asia Trust Bank, Plumbers Bank, Caltex, Philamcare Shell, Total, PLDT, Meralco, Smash Life, Philippine Airlines, AMEX-CIBA, Philippines Star, PAL, Unilever, Avon, Johnson, Kenton Cameron and Sony Ericsson. The tournament is sponsored by Smash, Nature's Harvest in Action, Sportsfitness, Royal McDonald's Lowchin Yu Mandi Ann, Donuts Boulevard, Dimsum and Champagne. PLDT, Meralco 88.3 and Smash.

F1 CIRCUIT

Denver Warden (F1 racing's Richard Jones hooked gear test positions and will clinched 2nd spot in the Golden Pen Formula 3 Circuit in Beijing, China for the 9th and 10th rounds of the Asian Formula 3 Series. Jones is now second in the Driver's Championship standings, while the team is also second in the team classification. Jenson Jones, center) is shown with crew chief Joel Parreno (left) and team manager Eric Camarillo.

ROAD TO F1

Maryan Bringas (left) and James Dickins of the Macau government tourism ask questions to Formula Renault champion Enzo Pastor during the launching of the "Road to F1 Stars the F1 Dream" campaign recently. Pastor has been invited to join the Macau Grand Prix. Interested sponsors may call 845-1322 or 892-3474 or Tom Pastor or log on to www.t.s.c.philpinas or www.f1dream.com.ph.

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Abrogeña

Soldiers back GMA, Army exec assures

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division here yesterday said there was no indication his soldiers would support attempts to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

"I assure you there is nothing to worry about for we are solidly behind the President," Maj. Gen. Gregorio Bañaga said.

But a source close to Mañaga said tension inside the sprawling alliance among the military here, a major shakeup within the 4th ID was the stalling because of a resurfaced story on the coup d'etat.

The source said some officers were to be probed on suspicion they were behind the [illegible] uprising.

Bañaga admitted "some movement" in the division would take place but said this is no connection with the retirement of Army chief Lt. Gen. Efrigenio Candilang.

"There may be a movement soon but it has something to do with General Candilang's retirement not because of the rumored surrender by the coup," Bañaga said.

He said since the Oakwood mutiny, his men have been undergoing periodic checks.

He said he was hoping that some groups would not take advantage of the situation and that the media would not blow up reports that only served to plunge the country into a deeper crisis.

"Let us help our soldiers because we would all be losers here," Bañaga said.

But the Mañaga source, who does not want to be identified, said the military's tension on the sprawling Constitutional crisis brought by the Davide impeachment issue was deadening.

The source also said a military takeover was very possible in the event former President Fidel Ramos dropped his support to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"All we can possibly do now is wait and see. The deadening silence of the military in our region is quite scary," he said.

The source, who is also a businessman, said if there is no coup d'etat, then the military might use the time for re-negotiation of materialism.

He said the military could pressure President Macapagal into acceding by using terrorism as reasons for the re-imposition of military rule.

The source cited the killings of former ex-Transportation Office chief Basilio Villacisel and Navy Lt. Ricardo Cambilon inside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday as one example of terrorism if the military could use to convince the President to declaring martial law. *Grace C. Allison, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

US MANEUVERS demonstrators feel firing during joint exercises between American and Filipino troops dubbed Balikatan in Crane, Tarlac on Wednesday. The 17-day exercises involve 400 US Marines and 900 Filipino soldiers. AFP

6 Mt. Province towns declared as peace zones

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Officials and tribal and religious leaders of Mt. Province's remote town had enough of war and designated their areas as special peace zones to a two-day meeting in Bontoc town this week.

Officials of Sabangan, Sagada, Tadian, Bauko, Besao and the capital town of Bontoc joined Bagada as "zone of no war," saying they would resist other government forces and the New People's Army to turn their towns as battlegrounds, reports from the Philippine Information Agency said.

During the Mt. Province peace zone, resolution held at the Yang-ah Vicariate Center in Bontoc on Nov. 5 and 6, the seven towns vowed to combat poverty instead. Representatives of Barlig, Sacasan and Paracelis towns did not declare their areas as peace zones. The seven towns' declaration as peace zones may be the largest such "open letter for peace" since the concept was introduced in 1987.

Rizal Mamilawan Banquiel, secretary general of the Coalition for Peace, said during the consultation that the Bagada peace zone, which was started in 1998, is one of their more successful experiences because of the strong support of the people. Thus the other towns would want to follow Bagada's lead was "non-negotiable," she said.

During the consultation coordinated by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process represented by Senior Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, more than 500 delegates said their main problem on social by is still the border conflict.

The tribal conflict between the Betwagan tribe in Sabangan and the neighboring Bontoc tribe of Tinglayan, for example, has been ongoing for almost two years now.

The tribal war between the 19 defunct tribe in Sagada and Sadle in Bontoc in 1999 was sparked by conflict over a water source.

The delegates also listed poverty, graft and corruption, insurgency, environmental degradation, unemployment and tribal conflicts as their most serious problems.

The leaders will meet on Nov. 21 and 22 to discuss the implementing guidelines for the peace zone systems among the seven towns.

House Bill 12280 (to are declaring a national policy on peace zones) is introduced by Senior Cayadoto for Sen. James Jacob in 2000 described a peace zone as "a people-initiated, community-based arrangement to a local geographical area which residents themselves declare to be off-limits to armed conflict."

Don't meddle with impeachment row, Bayan Muna urges AFP

LUCENA CITY—The militant party-list group Bayan Muna warned the armed forces of the Philippines not to meddle on the impeachment scandal of the day after it expressed concern over reports that the military is prepared to intervene should the impeachment case of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. precipitate to political unrest.

Rolando de Castro, Bayan Muna deputy secretary general, said what will Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya had issued was a "subtle caution," when the official expressed concern over reports that the military "might be put in the limelight again and be called upon to do its role" when the issue over the Chief Justice gets out of hand.

In a meeting with his men officers on Tuesday, Abaya said he was approached by certain individuals to "support" him of the situation has developed into a crisis.

According to Abaya, the group warned that the present situation might develop into a constitutional crisis and that the AFP might be called upon to do its role of protecting the people and the state.

But Wilson Pacsiocia, Batalion president, after hearing the phrase from a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, said the military has nothing much to worry about the current political crisis since it is merely a "political maneuvering" of the elite.

"General Abaya should also not worry about the [constitutional] crisis. Our elite rulers, who also include the elite here in the AFP, have already mastered the 'game of the generals' in these kinds of predicament as shown by Edsa 1 and Edsa 2," Pacsiocia said in a phone interview.

He dared Abaya to reveal the names of those who "agitated" him of the situation is help clear the air of rumors of "destabilization."

He said the general must also reveal their proposed coup on the eight other AFP in case this national grows into a downright crisis.

"If not, then Abaya's 'confession' might just be a 'pre-war tactic' of his gala doctrine to [illegible] the red alert status of the Armed Forces," Pacsiocia said.

De Castro said it was highly suspected that the AFP-Chief should "volunteer" information that such "consolidation" transpired.

He also said the timing of the disclosure was "impeccable," with the entire military establishment placed on red alert status.

"It's a subtle caveat that the AFP is prepared to intervene. This means that should the Impeachment Court convict Davide, it will mean rally that Davide be investigated, particularly on the alleged nature of the JDF the military would serve as a full-scale option," De Castro said in a statement in response to a query.

"Should the issue precipitate to political unrest, the Macapagal administration has no one else to blame but itself for its insistent on the Davide issue," he said.

Pacsiocia reminded the AFP of its constitutional mandate as protector of the people and not the ruling elite. "Unfortunately, its generals would not play a balancing act in the 'crisis' because the AFP will not play its role whichever side of the warring elite," he said.

He advised the AFP to stay at the sidelines before it assists the elite camp that gains the "upper hand" in the political [illegible]. *Belle F. Mollar Ur, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Oriental Mindoro bishop, clergy pledge support for Davide

CALAPAN CITY—The Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan led by Bishop Rodrigo Cajandig on Tuesday pledged its statement of support for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"In the midst of worsening poverty at a time when we as a people are eventually suffering from economic stagnation and political instability by the filing of impeachment complaints against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., joined by malicious political interests of a particular power block, is an affront against common good and perverts political opportunism at its worse."

In the past, the vicariate had been active in social issues both local and national.

Among others, it had been a major force in the recent of the passage of the historic 25-year mining moratorium in Mindoro.

The vicariate commended Oriental Mindoro Representative Alfonso Umali Jr. and Rep. Charity Leviste for truly considering the position of their constituents in their decision not to sign the impeachment complaint.

"The impeachment process was launched purportedly to root out graft and corruption in the government. The promise is simply hypocritical considering that the accusing could not claim moral ascendancy as that of the accused. The gospel admonition clearly enunciates, 'Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eyes?'"

The vicariate further called on political leaders, in light of the present crisis, to set aside partisan or personal interest and to embrace the fundamental values of truth, freedom and justice, while adopting the pursuit of the common good as the determining goal of all political activities. *Modesto T. Hesita, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Road program seen to bring more jobs

LEGAZPI CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday launched the "Gabala Natin, Kaginhawa Natin" program aimed at generating 141,000 jobs.

In her speech before some 6,000 people in the Albay Astrodome during her visit here Friday President Macapagal said the road is a project of the Department of Public Works and Highways in partnership with different barangays located along the national highways.

She said that the project includes the maintenance of the national highways to be handled by villagers, and not by DPWH contractors, to give them the chance to get employed.

This, according to the President, would generate four jobs per kilometer of highway.

The roadside-work maintenance, expected to be completed in seventy-five days, will create close [illegible] to the main road.

The progress, she explained, started from farmers, fishermen to tricycle drivers, which are considered populated places and many are considered unemployed.

Arroyo added that she decided to also extend the program to Bicol because for a long time, the region has been at the bottom of economic growth, ranked second to the poorest region in the country.

The technical aspect of the project is under DPWH Secretary Simon Cruz.

The President also disclosed the rehabilitation of the railroad from Manila to Bicol, which will be extended to Sorsogon.

She said a budget of P1.3 billion from Australia, which was awarded three months ago, would be used for the proposed rehabilitation project. *Joyce Mabilonia, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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AGORA YOUTH AWARDS

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jon Bendayan
Jonas Cruz Nico A. Alconaba

Mayor moves like a 'development worker'

By Maria Cecil Laguardia
Correspondent

WHEN James Odong of World Vision Uganda's Peace and Advocacy Program met Mayor Alfonso Stogsoy of Malapatan, Sarangani province, he immediately concluded that the chief executive was "like an NGO development worker, not a politician."

He was impressed with how the mayor reaches out to his constituents and makes himself available by just being himself.

A staff at the municipal office said the mayor is up early and goes around his town to get a feel of his people's concerns.

The mayor, a Magindanaon, said his primary to-do is to observe clothes. "Me t-shirt and maong pants so people will not be intimidated to talk to me. I want to be easily approachable to everyone."

In 1996, he started a television program while serving the municipality as councilor.

When he became mayor in 1998, the program became a passion. After his stopover trip to Bukidnon, he researched town-wide and county of Malapatan with its seven 18 barangays. The gospel then grew to include the more than hundreds of thousands.

"If people are busy, productive and later could earn sufficient income, they will not think of causing trouble in their lifestreets," Stogsoy said.

He visited us to build a processing plant so people can process the fruits and market them at competitive prices.

He urged his officials to go out in their constituents and "not wait for the people to go to them."

He said the people's guide is to promote projects for the environment and, at the same time, generate income for the families in the future.

Thousands of seedlings are allocated to every village for distribution that can be tapped later.

One of those who got convinced of the merits of the program was Ibrahim Jaafar of Barangay Sapu Maslo, who has already planted more than a thousand trees.

The mayor said: "Before, nobody took the program seriously. But now, many are interested. If one planted trees upon the birth of their children, the train would be ready to be marketed by the time they are in school. It will be a steady and dependable income for the family."

MAYOR Stogsoy (right) was only awestruck World Vision Uganda's James Odong.

Malapatan's 10 people population is a mould of a culture of peace.

It is not surprising to see all tribes engaged in projects and activities.

"Like a broom, we can make a difference if we are united," Stogsoy said.

The mayor believes in providing equal opportunities for people—whether they are Blaans, Magindanaons or Visayans.

"There is no reason we cannot rise from poverty as long as we are industrious and hardworking. We are the biggest corn suppliers of General Santos City," he said.

The mayor affirmed that World Vision projects in the seven villages of the municipality only "helped the poor."

"We are happy that our children have better opportunities now, especially in education, that was bad before."

World Vision has a total of 1,120 sponsored children in Malapatan. Led by coordinator Lira Bensali, Area Development Program (ADP) Sarangani is also the Center of Learning (COL) of the local legislative district (LCP) Project.

The ADP is managed by the people's organization Sarangani Community Development Foundation, Inc. (SacondE) whose officers and members are composed of different tribes. Its present chair of the Board of Trustees is Adelina Dedian, who belongs to the indigenous tribe of Blaan while her co-chair Ibrahim Limpo is a Magindanaon.

Stogsoy now on his second term as mayor, also urged the ADP to assist in the municipality's concentrate programs, which distributes fruit tree seedlings to interested residents. Malapatan has a land area of at least 62,465 hectares.

It has 12 villages populated by a about 56,000 people belonging to at least 13 tribes, majority of whom are Ubonons (40%), followed by Blaans (37%) and Magindanaons (12%). Majority of its people are engaged in farming and fishing.

Planting seeds of peace and development in Pikit

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Kidapawan City

FOR so many years, most residents of Barangay Dalingaoen in Pikit, North Cotabato were so idle their farmlands were like empty lots waiting to be filled.

Salmodin Sali, the mayor, thus Omar Onggi described the people in his village as "temporarily" adding that as most of their lands remained barren, so did their stomachs remain empty.

But in a dramatic turn of events, this sad-but-true situation had changed.

The government-led war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Pikit last February left thousands of civilians without homes. For fear of being caught between warring forces, the villagers in the Buliok Complex, which surrounds the Ugunsan Mountain, were forced to evacuate, leaving behind acres of rich property and livelihood.

Barangay Dalingaoen, along with the villages of Ima-ag, Buliok, Barongis, Gli-gli, Bunga nanda, Kibontalas, Biabol, Bakol and Balapaser, was among those hardest hit by the war in February.

The government initiated war against the MILF made many lives miserable. With many stories of anger and sufferings, the question left for the government to answer was how to rebuild the lives of thousands of evacuees.

Sir North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Pifol, the low water war not to dole out assistance to the people. Pifol's concept of giving the affected people assistance boils down to being independent and later achieving development by themselves.

Then came the Special Economic Enhancement and Development Program (Seed).

Rehabilitation

"Seed Pikit came into being as a response to rehabilitation efforts to regain the trust and confidence of the Muslim people towards government, and to really see to it that progress and development would serve as a crucial factor to really bring about peace," Pifol said.

The program revolves around rehabilitating and developing the poor communities of the rebel-controlled or influenced barangays, and to mobilize support, strengthen inter-agency interventions and participation in the rehabilitation and economic development of the communities of Pikit.

The provincial government planned out specific projects under the program including social services, education, health and nutrition, infrastructure support and agro-economic livelihood.

Some of the long-term goals include development of quality elementary and high school graduates; intensive adult teach-in sessions and the conduct of mother's classes, fostering programs on health and nutrition to decrease malnutrition, mortality and morbidity rates; and food security for the home and economy of income for vulnerable beneficiaries.

"We the government have just to see play a basketball game. There are instances during the game that you have to react under a given situation. I've always believed that even if we sign a thousand peace agreements, if our people continually in the provinces of Cotabato would remain hungry and poor, we will always have problems," the governor said.

The program, manned by Muslim employees of the province, was launched in March. Right after its launching, progress recipient from 23 villages of Pikit were given materials for corn planting as part one of the primary components of the program.

Rogines Salih, Seed Pikit program coordinator, said the provincial government allotted P4.6 million for corn planting, which involves seeds, fertilizers and each recipient as part of the labor component of the program.

Salih said they have hired around 800 farmers as beneficiaries with 1,078 hectares of land served.

But somewhere along the implementation of the corn program, another disaster came that rolled down the spunning hope of the people.

While everybody was expecting a flood last July, Salih said, nobody anticipated that it would be so damaging that it washed away 94 percent of the P4.6 million invested for the corn production.

"They came to us crying. They were really devastated and we were devastated as well. But we did everything to keep them hoping. We told them not to be discouraged because the government will be supporting them," Salih added.

Rice production

The provincial government's immediate response to the disaster was to introduce rice production. However, the government had difficulty finding certified planting materials that could meet their target planting area of 5,000 hectares, Salih said.

The people and Salih's group devised a mechanism that would help the surviving residents of Pikit.

"What we are working on now is the fish corral that would initially benefit some 20 fisherfolk. After we gain trust for the group, we will give assistance to another group of fishermen," Salih pointed.

Meanwhile, Ophir Sultan Brotherhood, another component of the Seed Pikit, is set to kick off on Nov. 11. The component aims to connect the Muslim and Christian residents of North Cotabato, thus breaking the complex web of biases and prejudices between the two groups.

The component will allow 25 rice farmers from the towns of M'lang and Tulunan to visit 25 rice farmers in Pikit.

Salih explained that Ophir Sultan Brotherhood is out to strengthen the Christian-Muslim relationship in the province and to alleviate the economic condition of the rice farmers of Pikit.

For obvious reasons, Salih said, the Tulunan and M'lang farmers are technologically advanced compared to their counterparts in Pikit.

"We are not only concerned about technology transfer here but we also need Muslims and Christians to have that feeling of connection between them instead of a gap," Salih said.

For Pikit, development is key to the achievement of true and lasting peace.

"We are shooting the people our resolve. I think, now is then just resetting the nucleus of corn that we have harvested from the field, what is important now is that the Muslim people in the province of Cotabato are seeing Seed Pikit as an answer to their problems, a solution that would help them settle down and achieve development and progress," Pifol said.

WHERE Capt. Pastilo Villaruel and Lt. Ricardo Castañeda were killed after they seized the Manila Control Tower shortly after midnight on Friday. Air traffic controllers have returned to work and Nava 2 has resumed normal operations.

SPIRAL stairway leads to the top of the 12-story tower.

HIGH DRAMA

ELITE troops in full battle gear guard the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

TO PROVE that everything is back to normal like she says, President Macapagal keeps her scheduled visits to Honduras and Colombia on Saturday morning. She confers with Air Force chief Lt.Gen. Mateo Zamilpa at Villamor Air Base shortly before takeoff.

TRAGIC end to a three-hour drama. The victims are brought out of the tower for the trip to the PNP Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

BUILT in 1994 under Villaruel's supervision, the Manila Control Tower is located in the Nasa complex but is operated by the Air Transportation Office.

'An overkill;' Villaruel family wants investigation

would seek an independent investigation and the help of rescue-oriented groups.

Tragic twist

In a Single Point of Time, The Associated Press quoted Arlill that the first plane that landed at the Manila office Villaruel was killed—a Philippine Air Force flight from Los Angeles—was piloted by his son, Basil Michael, a former PAF pilot.

Diane Jimenez, founding chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and a reservist like Villaruel, described the latter as "a man of good-standing and a fighter for democracy."

Jimenez said Villaruel's killing was an "overkill."

"He should have been kept alive rather than be tried and murdered for taking over the tower," Jimenez said.

Villaruel's last words to his youngest son before he exited the control tower built closing his eyes as chief of the Air Transportation Office were: "I have a consultation with destiny. The country is in flames... I have to take the lead."

Alan, chair of the Federation of Communist, Reserved and Inactive Soldiers (in Nation), described Danilo Villaruel as "a nice fellow, very idealistic."

Very idealistic

"He would always complain about the kind of government that we have, the corruption in the political system," Alan, a former military-aide, defense secretary and Army chief, said in a phone interview.

Alan recalled that Villaruel was vice president of Force at the height of the power rallies in 2000 calling for the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada on charges of corruption.

He expressed sadness at Villaruel's passing, saying: "I don't understand how he was killed at the tower. Some said he was tortured, others said he was shot."

In an interview with GMA-7, the son said the main aims of his father's night stowage only after seven years on the Air Force, saying: "He was very sad and not very calm. After during the [coup]," Soccer added: "He was in the town hall go. I think he was just looking for a forum to articulate his frustrations and he succeeded in doing that."

Kind-hearted

Villaruel's friend Pastor "Boy" Layson, secretary general of the Council of Philippine Affairs (Cpa), also said the commander-in-chief said the ouster was "very uncalled for" because there was "no struggle in front."

But Layson said he was "very surprised" to what Villaruel did.

"I know he's not a violent man," Layson told the inquirer. "He was rather soft spoken and kind-hearted."

Layson said Villaruel was his friend and that they both helped in Fidel Ramos' campaign for the presidency in 1992. He said Villaruel was a member of the Cpa-affiliated Philippine Marine Association (PMA) headed by Lt. Emmanuel Bay. "He was very sad and not very calm. After during the [coup]," Soccer added. "He was in the town hall go. I think he was just looking for a forum to articulate his frustrations and he succeeded in doing that."

Suffering

Before he was shot dead, Villaruel claimed he was expressing the 82 million "suffering" Filipinos and deplored the entertainment purchased Power Adjustment to electricity bills.

He said it was the government that should be paying for this "mistake," and not "the poor who can barely afford to eat."

He said the government owed was veterans (P14 billion), but its officials would only make empty promises in speeches.

Villaruel listed the array of "ungrat" senior citizens sleeping behind the scenes and 3 million area in Manila, which Mayor Lito Atienza has turned into a source attraction. He urged Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman to "fix the problem" and not collect her "impressive number."

He also said that "had he not resigned the controversial, he would not have discovered that employees assigned there had reportedly not been receiving their overtime pay.

He said this same problem has been happening in the AFO.

Another matter that pained Villaruel was the government's purported failure to take care of local terrorists in civilian hands.

Harassment

In 1997, he claimed that the politics supposedly unveiling his pioneering designs triggered the filing of a retrial. An unnamed source against him by Rafael nee Tenorio Zulla, granddaughter of former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

He claimed then that the complainant was being used by certain persons connected with the latter senior at the Philippine Aerospace Development Corp., of which he was president, supposedly to keep the company's property from sinking flight.

Layson said he was familiar with Villaruel's frustrations regarding corruption and red tape in the government agencies to which he had offered his design for a helicopter he dubbed "Sharpshooter" and a wooden cabin.

Villaruel was also an amateur expert and solid aviation parts and software programs.

Layson said he last saw Villaruel a couple of months ago but tried to know the latter met Tuesday with Senegan Rep. Jose Solis, a fellow PMA member, to inquire on the progress of the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide and to again air his frustrations over government corruption.

Pilot

Villaruel was a 1961 graduate of the Philippine Air Force Flying School. After serving as a pilot in the "flight line" in field for eight years, he retired and pursued commercial aviation, according to PAF spokesperson Maj. Reinerio Padilla.

Castañeda, 38, married briefly with the Navy's clinic, Special Warfare Group and was commissioned in 1993, officials said.

At the time of his death, he was undergoing court martial at the Judge Advocate General's Office for conduct unbecoming base as officer, military records showed.

Castañeda was put on "floating" status on August 2002 for eloping polygamy a violation of the Articles of War. He had since been regularly reporting in the Headquarters Support Group.

METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Lightning hits mom, 2 kids in Luneta

By Lolita Salzeverio

A SINGLE lightning bolt that struck Manila, turned tragic for a young mother and her two children when they were hit by lightning during a thunderstorm yesterday afternoon.

DPO2 Ricardo Magbanua and Senador N. Margarejos, JR, a resident of Pasig City, and her two children, a 5-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl, were taken to the Manila Doctor's Hospital after they were hit by lightning at around 2:30 p.m.

According to Dr. Patricia Villarama, the hospital's emergency room officer, the two children had no heartbeat when they were brought in.

As of 3:30 p.m. yesterday, doctors are still trying to revive the children who remained unconscious, Villarama said.

According to several ABS-CBN drivers who witnessed the incident, Margarejos and the children were standing under an Indian tree near the Chinese Garden and were holding an umbrella when they were lightning struck the victims. At the time, there was heavy rain and loud thunderclaps could be heard.

After the lightning struck, we saw that their umbrella was smoking," recalled a male ABS student who decided to give his name.

The ABS student came to Kiko Rark in practice their cheering moves.

The black backpack Margarejos was carrying was also damaged, its back portion slightly singed.

The lightning bolt knocked the children to the ground. One of the drivers said. They then sought the help of park authorities, who took the victims to the hospital.

Witnesses who saw the victims when they were brought in the hospital said Margarejos appeared the least hurt. They said the hair at the back of her head appeared burnt and the edge of her face red. The children seemed to have suffered burns all over their bodies.

Early Xmas treat for Makati folk

LTFRB bars operations of truck firm on 2 roads

By Tina Santos

RESIDENTS of Arellano Avenue and Medina Street in Bel-Air, Makati, got an early Christmas treat when the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board cancelled and revoked the franchise of IDC Trucking Service Corp., whose trucks, they claimed, have been bombing the peace and polluting the air in their neighborhood for almost two decades.

The residents said they are looking forward to opening the windows of their houses again to let in some fresh air and enjoy a good night's sleep—things which they last enjoyed 10 years ago.

In a seven-page decision dated Nov. 3, LTFRB chair Manla Elena Bautista ordered that the Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) issued to the firm be cancelled and revoked.

"Any endeavor, to entertain or sustain the respondent's argument would be a disservice and undeserved jurisdiction in the complainants, who have suffered long enough," the order said.

Final and executory

The owner of IDC Trucking, Emmanuel Castillo, argued that Arellano Ave., site of the truck terminal, is a commercial area. He said the decision granting the application for CPC has become final and executory.

But Bautista said the respondent's argument "suffers a basic oversight of the powers of the Board," saying the CPC approved by the Board is not an absolute right and permanent privilege because it can be amended, modified, or cancelled when it is no longer viable to the public and to the general interest.

Also, Bautista said some of the documents, particularly the zoning clearance, which Castillo submitted appeared to be questionable.

The trucks have been using a 300-square meter lot at 4017 Arellano Avenue as a garage and repair shop. Worse, the fires that also burned the streets into becoming lot.

Milestone

Makati residents had resorted to legal action after the authorities—the police, barangay and city hall officials—failed to act on their complaints.

"At long last, we finally achieved justice," said Amy Mojica, a bank executive whose family's last floor living in the area for the past 40 years.

Mojica visited the site and most members of her family had been stricken with respiratory ailments because of the trucks' fumes.

Ahmad Bondad, a resident for 30 years, called the Board's decision a "milestone."

"Not imagine how long we have suffered, nevertheless, its really worth the wait," Bondad told the bureau.

Still others would not believe it when the case was finally decided in their favor.

"God finally answered our prayer," said Jean Hidde, a secretary of the Lord Jesus Bible Church on Arellano Avenue. "It finally came to pass and I think this is one great occasion to celebrate."

While the LTFRB decision, the residents hope that the order will immediately be implemented.

"They (IDC Trucking) have no choice but to follow the order, or they would have to face the consequences," Nobin said.

Bottled H_2O sells briskly in Camanava, QC areas

IT MAY be poor but they're not taking any risks.

Alarmed over the recent gastrointestinal outbreak in Tondo, Manila, informal settlers in Quezon City and the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela area have been left with no other choice but to spend a fortune on bottled water from refilling stations.

They claimed that a big part of their meager budget everyday is now being allocated for water.

"My husband, who is a construction contractor, only earns P5,000 a day. But instead of saving half for my four children, I have to spend almost half of that amount to buy bottled water," Amanda Salvacion, 36, of Payatas, Quezon City, said.

"We don't want to suffer the same fate of Manila residents. It's better to be safe than sorry," added Merly Tumala, 45, a mother of six from Caloocan City.

A small bottle of distilled water ranges from P10 to P12 each, while a gallon costs P55-65. Mineral water in Malabon, claimed for sale does not differ from the giants' outbreak.

"Who would still dare to drink water from their taps after the outbreak? The residents seem to have been discouraged from drinking tap water, even after their barrels," he said. Tina Santos

ENDURANCE CHALLENGE
A participant in the ASEAN Race Endurance Challenge scales the steel girders of the Ayala Bridge Saturday in a bid to cross over to the other side of the span. The Manila leg of the event has drawn 240 participants. EDUARDO CASTRO-ESPU

Suspected cop killers nabbed

By Lolita R. Salzeverio and Lalge Ael Puerte

THREE men on Friday were arrested in connection with the killing of two police officers in Manila and Marikina City.

Ismael Bilgani, 25, and his brothers, Reggie, 30, were arrested in their house in Kalalian Dos, Barangay Ilaya, Marikina City, according to Supt. Amado Hollachia, Western Police District station 5 commander.

Bilgani was arrested shortly after he allegedly killed police agent Ismaine G. Magno III.

His brother Reggie was arrested for illegal possession of drugs.

Their father, Roberto Bilgani, 59, was also arrested for obstruction of justice.

The three have denied the charges against them, police said.

SPO1 Ricardo Bilgani's brothers are members of the "Harvard gang" and are the primary suspects in the killing of PO1 Michael Dennis Corpuz on Nov. 2.

Hollachia added that the brothers also had a hand in the shooting of barangay official Noel Caguipo last Thursday.

Caguipo and Corpuz were shot by men on board a white taxi.

According to DPO2 Virgo Villaruel, several men on a white taxi and a pickup truck tried to rob businessman Jesus Ang, who had just taken his girlfriend, Jessica Soo Hoo Siguion-Reyna, then at 9:45 p.m.

Magno and some of his friends saw what was going on and went to Ang's rescue. Before they fled, the suspects opened fire and hit Magno in the chest.

The brothers were tracked down to their house and arrested. Police found a 9-mm pistol in the suspects' house. Investigators said the pistol could be used in Corpuz.

In Marikina, policemen arrested Jack Jacarla in his house on Binghamton Street, Tumana District, according to Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief.

Rojas yesterday said that Jacarla is the main suspect in the killing of SPO1 Rodolfo Samaniego in August 2002.

Samaniego and PO2 Victor Ilio were then conducting anti-illegal drug operations in Tumana when suspected drug pushers and users attacked them, Rojas said.

During the melee, Jacarla grabbed Samaniego's service firearm and used it on the officer.

When arrested, Jacarla denied killing the policeman. But Samaniego's partner, Ilio, identified Jacarla as the one who shot and killed his partner, Rojas said.

METROBRIEFS

Gunfight on Arranera

MMDA road show

Murder weapon

Observe novena masses, public urged

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is calling on the people to observe the nine First Fridays to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and five First Saturdays to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In a pastoral message, CBCP President Orlando B. Quevedo, OMI, has called on the faithful to attend the series of masses and Communion of Reparation to offset the current "crisis in the priesthood," which has shaken the "deepest beliefs and values in our family and community life as a Church."

Quevedo, also the archbishop of Cotabato, urged every diocese and parish to make its Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart on Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 23.

According to the pastoral message, "the focus of the current renewal of the nine-month period will be the 9 First Friday Novenas to the Sacred Heart ... for the spiritual and moral renewal of the world, as called for by the Second Vatican Council."

The chain of First Fridays began on June 7 and includes all the First Fridays after that, till July 2, 2004.

"We are only too greatly aware of the need of reform in our country," Quevedo said. "There is so much we must struggle to reform and renew in our society and its institutions."

MMDA set to cover Metro with flowery love chain

By Margaux Ortiz

METRO Manila will soon bloom with flowers.

This is what the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) intends to do in the next few months.

The goal is part of a project called "Pabulaklakin ang Metro Manila," which the MMDA has launched recently.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he prefers to plant cadena de amor along the metropolis, specially around the Mercedes Function and Edsa-EK panels.

Fernando said these personnel have begun putting wires in these areas to support cadena de amor vines.

He also said that if he has his way, he would pick cadena de amor as the official flower of the metropolis.

"The cadena de amor is an easy favorite; it is prolific and burgeons pink and white flowers," Fernando told the barangay in a phone interview.

Fernando also said in jest, "Besides, Metro Manila does not have an official flower yet."

He stressed that cadena de amor means chain of love, which will send a positive message to residents of Metro Manila.

He added that the vines will protect posts from both graffiti and erroneous posters.

But Fernando said they have yet to narrow if the cadena de amor will thrive in its new environment.

He also said that they have yet to consult with the Metro Manila Council if the mayors are open to the idea of having an official flower for the metropolis.

Fernando disclosed that Transportation Undersecretary Abaya has requested the agency to continue beautifying Metro Manila by planting shrubs and flowers in its major thoroughfares.

"We are just finishing off what we started when we sprayed up the metropolis for US President (George W.) Bush's visit last month," Fernando said.

Thief locks himself in toilet, is arrested

ROGELIO Lopez could have immediately escaped after snatching a wet purple shoe on Friday, but the self-confessed drove him to see the victim's toilet.

But, to his horror, he found himself locked in and, later, found himself locked up in jail.

Lopez, 38, of Sitio Agoncillo, Caloocan City, told police he did not regret pulling off the heist, but on having stood a minute longer relieving himself in the victim's toilet.

He said he could have fled immediately from the scene.

But unable to contain the urge to relieve himself, Lopez decided to use the toilet. That's when he found himself locked from the inside.

His panicked attempt to open the door created a lot of noise and caught the attention of the owners, who then called the police.

Lopez was arrested by operatives of the Caloocan police at 10:45 p.m. inside the toilet of the Next Bullet Auto Supply on Rizal Avenue Extension in Grace Park, Caloocan City, owned by a certain Dr. Charlie Ng.

Police said the suspect climbed the concrete fence from the neighboring lot and got inside the shop through an opening on the roof. Tina Santos

Sunday BIZ

Business Forward plus Margie Quimpo-Rupisa

'Once a small player plays defense, the game is over'

By Margie Quimpo-Rupisa

HONTALEZA

ONE of the modern equipment the firm uses now.

THE "PRIMITIVE" manufacturing process used by Splash in its early years.

Solid abroad

Splash products are in 35 countries today with the foreign market contributing 15 percent to its annual revenue. The market abroad was actually started by overseas Filipino workers who would bring Splash products to their new homes.

This prompted Splash to eventually look at foreign shores and ensure marketing and distribution outlets.

When they started, they had three employees—Hontaleza, his wife and their bookkeeper. Hontaleza says they wanted to hire people but nobody wanted to join them then because they were small.

Today Splash has 180 employees, has a plant in Valenzuela, a corporate office, four offices abroad and is one of the few Filipino companies which has a research institute. They have also adopted technology to improve inventory management thereby increasing margins.

Hontaleza says "just enrollment gave us the agility and the speed" to create new products and serve the market.

He says Splash could not of the two challenge. "We can live with our giant competitors because they challenge us to improve and grow. Once a small player plays defense the game is over. We played offense (we did our) take-out competition head on."

The name Splash was chosen because it conveys the idea of how the company was formed.

The company's logo is a fresh, green leaf with a droplet of water above symbolizing:

"Our idea of a business organization is more than manufacture but and wants to diversify its matrix. It must be flexible and attuned to the changing times. It must not stand still and be passive. It should continually search for progress and improvements. It must organize and reinvent itself," he says.

[FROM left] Ernesto Fritz Server, director of RFM, with RFM chair Guillermo Luchangco and wife Ma. Lourdes.

Change accounting rules to match new ball game

By Doris M. Velasco
Contributor

Executive Excel
"Rethinking the Rules of Financial Accounting"
By Robert W. Anthony
McGraw-Hill, 2003

YOU walk down the street of the country's financial district, Ayala Avenue, and you say would you appreciate high-rise buildings. The name is now echoes—immobilized by the immovable traffic crossing within the Greenbelt Center—you are awed by rows and rows of edifices challenging the heights.

And you wonder? Are the companies behind it as brave in putting capitals to those buildings really stable. But, you quickly remember an old adage not to "judge the book by its cover" for a second one from the editor of a hometown mayor "Do not judge my brother, he is not a book").

So, speaking of buildings, don't judge companies by its façade or its giant signboard. After all, there is always "a small company with a big sign" in every apartment of Avila, Ortigas, Alabang and Filinvest land.

EXECUTIVE READ

So, if facades won't do it, how do you know the company you are talking to or investing in is well worth its image? Thank God, there are accountants who make sure you even see the details of the numbers—with its balance sheet—of assets, liabilities and equity in the past, we could truly say we trust the financial statement as a summary document, to be largely beyond question. And, as we always said: "Look at the figures."

And yet, what the chiefs of Enron (which initially impressed me when top Enron executives Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling flew into town by private jet some years ago) and after the scholastic accounting firm by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the second biggest there has fallen out of favor. Not only that. With the advent of companies whose assets are not, strictly speaking, "physical," how can one now evaluate these assets to pass and endorse?

Then, you have "creative accounting" on one side where you need new management to implement any alternatives, and you have to look at those whose assets while purely intangible are immediately valuable. This backdrop—arranged accounting guru Robert Anthony to write the book, "Rethinking the Rules of Financial Accounting."

Anthony has his premises well, drawing from the rigors of numbers. His points out: "Most data/ phrases—phrases, theorizing economics, medicine, engineering and mathematics—have a conceptual framework for organizing measurement and a set of rules consistent with that framework. These frameworks and rules have to be examined from time to time as the world changes. Intangible assets in the information economy, in the above, accounts issue, and the rules do not incorporate new measurement techniques."

The book is meant for accountants, with technical terms that may be alienate to the layperson. But, if you are an executive, who went through Accounting for Non-Accountants or have gone through the rigors of MBA training, the fundamental issues raised by the book yield to some, if not easy understanding.

That Anthony begins with a basic truth, "Accounting rules are rules for measurement"—and proceeds to define measurement as the process of assigning numbers with physical quantities and phenomena." Financial accounting rules measure 'physical quantities' in three categories—assets, liabilities and equity—at one moment in time."

Arriving at a company's net worth or true value is the crux of the problem confronted by the author. And yet, at the end of every chapter or section, he wrestles with the same old question: How do you reduce to numbers the operating performance of the company—and then how do you "photograph" in financial statements its balance sheet?

The author begins with the first hurdle: terminology. He points out that even the Federal Accounting Advisory Board of the US showed in a 1998 study that companies have two names for the same item. "Operating income" was used 310 times and "operating profit" was used 146 times.

He moves on to illustrate this "Financial Position Statement." After he outlines a historical tidbit—that the balance sheet has already been used for 500 years, he makes a shocking statement. The balance sheet "does not report an entity's financial position."

He explains: "The basic idea does not, and cannot, report all the resources that an entity owns or controls." He cites as examples the value of brands, new products, and the quality of a firm's management. He also notes the increasing importance of these "intangibles" as factors in the hard assets.

An interesting "did you know" tidbit is in this book. Accounting's "dual aspect concept," according to Anthony, was first used in Italy in the early 15th century by Luca Pacioli's Summa (1494) who stated that accounting should measure two equal aspects of every transaction. He labeled one as pure "debit" and the other "credit." It was widely used by companies sending a fleet of ships at the end of the voyage.

In more chapters covering measurement on income and cash flow, Anthony argues for the use of the more commonplace measurement recognition of income, and takes to task many creative financial maneuvers of companies which "window dress" their financial statements or are "skewing up the books" prior to a sale.

He also throws more and different problems confronting accounting rules for non-profit firms and government institutions.

From talking about rethinking the rules, the author also makes up ethical behavior among auditors and accountants. He says: "If professionals steal money, lie, produce an inferior product, or commit other sins, their conduct is illegal and they can be punished in the courts." However, some conduct may be legal, but it can be "unethical, unprofessional."

Doubtless, financial accounting is a serious matter. An executive can be thrown to jail for accounting fraud. Or, on the basis of an auditor's report, a Chief Justice may be impeached. The author has a need for auditors. They must exercise "due diligence." And that simply means: They must do enough work with the satisfaction that their financial statements report what they are supposed to report.

But, first of all, change the rules, because in the 21st century corporate world is an entirely different ball game. (dmvelasco@i-next.net)

RFM president and CEO Jose A. Concepcion III

[FROM left] RFM VP Ramon Lopez Jose Guinto, commercial director of Tanduay and Philip F. Prieto, AVP for corporate purchasing.

HERBERT Ju, VP marketing of Supervalue Inc.

UNILEVER chair Howard Bainco

Food firm gets new tagline: "We love kids"

LISTED food giant RFM Corp. recently celebrated its 45th anniversary as a fully-rebranded branded-food enterprise, with a renewed sense of purpose aptly captured in its new tagline, RFM: We love Kids.

Founded in 1958 as the Philippines' first flour-milling company, RFM has evolved through the years from a commodities-based and agri-business producer to a huge industrial conglomerate involved in everything from food to property, electronics, banking and other businesses.

In the wake of the Asian crisis in 1997, RFM has had to dispose of some of its non-performing businesses to strengthen its financial position, including eventually the sale of its high-profile soft-drinks subsidiary, Coronet Bottling Corp.

In the process, RFM has focused its efforts to consolidate its standing as one of the country's leading players in the manufacturing and marketing of fast moving branded-and food and beverage products.

Today RFM stands strongly with an array of powerful brands for the consumer market: White King bathsoap, skin-based cosmetics and sunscreen, Florida Dance deodorant roach-n-clobb and personal care products; Argentina corned beef, Gilda tuna, Selecta Ice milk drinks, Selecta ice cream, Swift Mighty Meaty and Sweet 'n Juicy hotdogs, Swift dairy-based food and many more.

In all its enterprise-rebuilding efforts, RFM has rediscovered the basic theme that has run through many years of developing products for the Filipino consumer: its concern for the well-being of children. RFM has not only been making food and beverage products that children enjoy, or sponsoring sports-related sports events and social development programs. RFM has been building upon a core Filipino value: It is in our nature to love our kids.

As conceptualized by RFM president and CEO Joey Concepcion, the RFM theme is now "RFM: We love kids."

He explained that "for a long time, our tagline was 'RFM: Raising the Quality of Food for the Filipino.' It's a good commitment, but I had always been looking for something with a more personal and meaningful connection. Thinking about what RFM has really been doing for people led me to see that its real focus has really been on kids...what they need, what they want, what they enjoy."

Being a family man himself with four children, Joey Concepcion reasoned out the basic idea that love is a commitment to always try to do one's best.

"At RFM, 'We love kids' is first of all, a commitment to quality in all the products we make available. It is also a commitment to innovate our products in ways that will make children healthier and happier. Even in our ads, we feature only those who can serve as good role models for kids," he said.

RFM's commitments outside the business has also tended towards the well-being and development of children. The company continues to be the major proponent in the annual search for the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) as well as the outreach programs of the Laura Vicuna Foundation for Street Children. In sports, RFM is well known for its support of basketball clinics and other training programs for children.

"As parents, as mothers and fathers, we would never give our kids something that may in bad for them. We will always try to give them the best that we can, whatever our station in life," Concepcion explained.

[FROM left] Peachy Concepcion, Michelle Concepcion-Aspra with son Miguel and husband Eric (behind), Gary Valenciano and Angeli Pangilinan, Marissa Concepcion and Martin Jr. Concepcion.

Feting partners and promising a 'perfect picture'

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines Corp. (Empire) feted its local retail partners in a campaign of its latest and most advanced digital products to hit local stores via the "Digital Partners Roadshow". The event's highlight was the introduction of Samsung's Digital Natural Image engine (DNIe), a proprietary technology that promises to deliver "perfect pictures."

Seijoo president and CEO Sung Youl Eom led the unveiling with key officials from the Samsung Headquarters in Korea including general manager for product planning Jaeyoon Lim, regional product manager Minseko Lim and general manager for CRT TV product marketing Ahn Am Ho. Among the Super officials present were vice president for sales and marketing of consumer electronics Dong Ho Jung, senior manager for marketing Jerry Lucena and advertising and promo manager Angie Limbaco.

Samsung's "Digital Partners Roadshow" is part of a worldwide campaign to showcase DNIe, included ngo in key markets in the United States, Europe and India. DNIe is a set of four advanced image processing technologies that makes digital TVs, including various types of displays such as LCD, PDP projection and CRT, produce the dynamic, more detailed and yet more natural-looking images even. The four technologies used by DNIe are motion optimizer, contrast enhancer, detail enhancer and color optimizer.

Participants that DNIe is a significant development for Samsung's display business. DNIe is installed in all four rear-plasma-display TVs, LCD projection TVs and selected models of LCD TVs. The 30-inch HT36L(P)28 and the 61-inch W61L(H)00 are currently available in the local market as well as five other models of LCD TVs. Other models are expected to be shipped by yearend.

To make the digital experience more exciting, Samsung also presented its latest innovation in digital video technology, the Hypervideo. DVD player, or specifically, is the world's first DVD players to produce high-definition picture quality. To view the enhanced picture quality, digital video input is necessary which is available on all plasma displays as well as Samsung LCD projection TVs and some models of LCD TVs. Eom noted that Samsung developed complementary innovations to show how two products work together for one solution. "We are confident that Filipino consumers will find the best picture quality at competitive prices in Samsung products. On top of that, we offer the market a complete digital package that enhances the home entertainment experience," he said.

SAMSUNG AP for sales and Marketing Consumer Electronics Dong Ho Jung.

SAMO Youl Eom, CEO of Samsung.

BILLY Ang of Golden Bell and Jerry Courty of Samsung

Samsung ad and promo manager Angie Limbaco and assistant manager Ed Funcion.

When you're down and out, light a candle

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT WAS the 80s and the times were good for Ed Gatchalian.

He had a modest development company that brought him to different parts of the world, managed products for some multinational firms and even had time to be a musical director and composer advertising jingles for clients.

Then came the Asian crisis in 1997 and the construction sector took the hit the same year, too. His businesses that were dependent on the budgets of foreign firms dried out by one.

It came to the point where the family savings were wiped out and the family became desperately worried about where they were going to get the funds to keep them going.

Financial crisis

And as if the Gatchalian's financial crisis was not enough, they suffered another blow when their first grandchild, named Avery in October 1997 at only 32 days old.

Devastated, being divorced, Thelma, one day, fell and while lying firmly believed that where God closes a door, he opens a window. True enough, He did.

He may have dismissed several doors on their faces, but God did honor one little window of opportunity open for them and it came to the form of Bing's hobby of making candles.

"It started from our travels. Whenever we went abroad, Bing would buy candles for our house. And then she and one of our twin daughters started making these candles on their own. In fact they made a candle shaped like a baby bottle that we put inside the coffin of our granddaughter and people who saw it wanted to buy it," Gatchalian says.

Turning serious

They did not seriously think about making a business out of the hobby until one of Bob Hawk's regional tour since Christmas was approaching, they could make enough candles to sell in a bazaar in Alabang. Bing and their daughter Gabby and Kelly did and they happily made P20,000 in sales in one day.

"I was surprised by what happened and so I put my brain/management thinking cap back on and said that if we are going to make a business out of it then we should be more serious about it," Gatchalian tells the bazaars.

So on her garden in the heavily perfected their craft, Gatchalian were invested to look for possible clients and he found his first investor was in Samson's hardware one of the Emerson was his friend.

Samson's gave them their first purchase order worth P500,000 and it encouraged the family to work even harder. Gatchalian, meanwhile, was still a little skeptical because he thought that perhaps he only got the candles because of friendship.

But as orders came from other people, even from those that they did not know, they be started to believe in the products.

"In just 18 months, from our first small DTI, the local orders grew and we were now getting orders in the seven-digit level and there we had our first export inquiry from Singapore. That opened my eyes to the possibility of going outside the domestic market," he says.

The Gatchalian's big breakthrough came in 2000 when the husband and wife team went to the United States to make sales of their new candles were working there. One of their wife suggested that they market it for all of their different candle designs and mail it to the big stores chains in the US, in the hope that they would be impressed enough to order.

Gatchalian and daughter Kelly now delivered one personally to the office of Henry Sarfati, Macy's, a few days before they were scheduled to go back to the Philippines.

Just two days before they were supposed to leave, they got a call from the people of Williams Sonoma, the number company of Pottery Barn, which has over 100 branches in the US. "The firm was impressed with the kind of candles that the company produced and said that they wanted to meet with us. He had to rebook our flight. It was Williams Sonoma who really introduced us to product development and the kind of products that the US market wanted," he says.

Meeting with the Williams Sonoma group did a lot to boost the Gatchalians' confidence in their products, such that when the twin daughters met with a candle distributor in the US, they were more than ready and finally bagged their first order to sell candles to the giant US market through Cost Plus.

"To think that we just started out candle business in our kitchen with only my wife and daughters plus two workers doing the candles. But when the order came in 2002, to send candles to the US market, we had to get a 2,000 square meter factory so that we would really produce the candles at the quality that the US wanted," Gatchalian says.

From a production of 4,000 candles a month, the Gatchalians' Bella Enterprise Inc. now produces 125,000 candles a month under the brand name "Candle With Care".

Gatchalian, however, stresses that penetrating the US market takes much more than just booking up with the right person. He says it is about painstakingly trying to meet the stringent product standards that the US distributors impose on suppliers.

"They wanted for burning performance, how long it took for the candle to burn, how it burned, if there was smoke. They also looked at the texture and if there were any holes in the candles. They were really very strict," he says.

Subsequent as the standards were, the Gatchalian's candles passed through all the tests making them one of the first Filipino companies to pass their standards.

But fate was not through with testing the Gatchalians' resolve.

In September last year, all 27 ports of the West Coast of the US were on strike preventing exports from coming in or for market.

"We had to orders from Japan before we December last year and here we were with a brand new factory and people with salaries we have to pay. I was so worried that what happened to us in 1997 would happen again," Gatchalian says.

(FROM left) Ed Gatchalian, with Bing and twin daughters Gabby and Kelly

PACIFIC Express's candles now adorn many American homes.

Target

Fortunately for them and other suppliers, the port strike crisis was resolved in December last year and deliveries continued and the Gatchalians even got another major order this time from Target, one of the biggest retail chains in the US.

"One of my happiest moments was when my son talked me from the US and said that he was standing in front of a Target store looking at one of our candles. That really filled my spirits," Gatchalian says.

He says he is also especially proud to see the words "Made in the Philippines" on the bottom of their candles sold in Target.

Gatchalians says that their candles were able to make it in the US because of their diligence in following US quality standards. "We are also fortunate because the candle business is really big in the US. It is an integral part of their living and for some reason they really liked our designs," says Bing.

It has been a long and arduous journey for the Gatchalians, who admit that there were many points of desperation when they almost gave up. But their faith and perseverance paid off.

"No matter how good your products or connections are, it is really God who brings all these together. You are just one order away how success and that comes from God," Gatchalian says.

New ventures join Heaven Sent Bazaar

NEW businesses owned by young entrepreneurs will be the first to test their products at the 11th Heaven Sent Lifestyle Bazaar, which holds its month-untitled annual sale for two weekends this November at the Manila Polo Club.

Carmen Jimenez-Ong, founder of Heaven Sent Bazaar (HSB) along with Nini Lucero Llanillo 11 years ago said, the HSB Executive Committee decided to hold the bazaar for two weekends, Nov 15-16 and Nov. 22-23 because of persistent demand from regular and new shoppers who find one weekend not sufficient time to do their pre-Christmas shopping.

One new company that started out as a hobby of stick matching jewelry is Lulu Kiwi Jewelry, one of the participants who started by Janice M. Tang Plup as a hobby of stun matching jewelry.

She used to live in Vancouver and sold some of her creations to friends and relatives.

She uses Indian and Venetian glass beads and Czechoslovakian glass crystals and gemstones.

Sun Bing Ulysany Pottery Shard pendants, with no chemical paints, will also be featured there.

There is also Felipe Arriges, whose original Designs, Cushion, Orders and other brands can be found in perfect condition and will be fashionably perfect to wear these days.

Another product, Tadtiar (the Spanish name of sponge cake) in models and original flavor can be bought for P400 (for a box of six pieces), P180 (6 dozen pieces) and P950 (two dozens). Its young proprietor Enrique Prado started selling his cakes at a Kiosk in Shoppesville Libis in October 2002, which is very near his home kitchen in Valle Verde. At Shoppesville he sold old fashioned delights: fudge and square cakes.

Classic Confections, which started selling Christmas cakes in bazaars held by the Catholic Wives Club since 1999, is joining HSB for the first time this year selling decorative "heaven sent" and delicious cookies at relatively cheap prices. Sisha Ibarra said the girls collect for her cakes throughout the year or her cousin spoon in Bacolod.

Gypsy Girl, another business owned by Amanda Imbaro, young and dynamic, is a collection of fashion accessories from different local makers in Cebu and other parts of the country, which have not been exported and kept for long at the boutique. The local jewelers shop is for the pieces in bulk and she selects which ones she could market in bazaars like HSB. She started selling beaded jewelry for the past two months.

"It's in the bag" markets embroidered Vietnamese silk table napkins, bags, blouse and other stuff that are high quality but affordable prices.

New designs of crocheted children's dresses and accessories made by Red Box, a Cebu-based company that sells its products in Manila exclusively at SM, are interesting buys.

Discovery Arts and Crafts (exhibitors since operating since 1996) is selling bargain buys like the Japanese-made board, lamp bases and frosty sets and chest for muscle controls.

A PENDANT made from Venetian glass beads by Janice Tang Plup of Lulu Kiwi jewels.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

'I realized that to be truly happy, one must simply be true to one's self'

Goodness gracious!

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

IN THE LAST meeting of senior women who regularly get together for dinner in each others' house, the topic decided on for our next discussion was "How to Grow Old Gracefully."

I made a wry face. It reminded me of those days when my sons, three in grade school, had such lose-that ideas of what a graceful and proper mommy visiting their school should look like.

"PTA dress" it's now called, I was told—linen dress (not boxie Anok gown, please), pastel color with small flower print (no lightning or extreme trend), neatly combed back hair (no tangled curls), pearls and pumps (no sandals). Adults should confirm, that's what I got from them.

Then in my middle I received a gift book: "When I Grow Old I Shall Wear Purple." It was supposed to be a hoidie. But I had always worn purple! And turquoise. And bottle green. And peacock blue. Also white, black, beige and red. My recurring fantasy had been to go to some grand affair at the Cultural Center, sweeping up the driveway in a brightly decorated jeepney with blinking lights and a dozen silver horns on its hood, its long pink plastic strips whipping about like pastel. Nope, wearing purple wasn't going to excite me.

Spare and simple

A friend suggests that graciousness in one's growing old years has a lot to do with paring down, with simplicity. Well, I've had my brush with that.

In the 1960s, when our house was new and we were very young, our architect advised us to go to a minimum decorator for our furniture because we didn't know what we wanted. The style for homes of the 60s was Japanese...spare and simple: low cables, long plain benches of wood with cushions, and round paper lanterns, maybe an elegant Japanese scroll.

The designer gave us just that. Your taste is so chic, our friends said, impressed.

I couldn't relate to it. Everything was just too quiet for my personality. I guess I'm not about "simple." Dati nasa sala male ng stereo.

Paring off excess is the secret to life, I was often told. But what is excess? The less you put in your house and on yourself, the more evolved you are? But what if there are not "excesses" but are my necessities in life, like the sound of crickets, a patch of green, a piece of art, a monument to remember?

That year when I realized that to be truly happy one must simply be true to one's self, I was a variegated cornucopia. I could never be a plain-no-frills-no-nonsense, that much I knew.

House in progress

Through the years our house has slowly become a visual overload. It is now awash with assorted Filipino art...paintings sweeping up the walls, sometimes bursting on the ceiling into sense-bloated Bytes sculptures. I do not like sun chairs; I do not relish routine art from other shores; I fit is and ever will be a house in progress.

The bathrooms are creations of my artist friends. I know I will soon have paintings all over the ceilings and doors as long as there are new artists to discover.

Today sculptured "creatures" guard the inner garden and eccentric name visitors. So the house now talks (to) me.

As for my niece, as long as there is a ceiling fan whirring above him and enough light to see some gourmet food on his plate, he's at home. The art kind of works in very unusual ways fluorescent lights and the ceiling fan.

The house overflows with the effusions of the many people who have broken bread in it—every ity of ages, sensibilities and interests. I enjoy the company I keep. I like their passion for living, the wildness of their imaginations and the fearlessness of their quests.

But I like, too, my husband's quiets and retreats because they pull me down to earth. Maybe the house reflects the richness of our lives today the many windows that have opened since we entered our senior years.

As for my body—especially my hair—since cured only to the barest of essentials now has been measured by inexorable beauty aids regularly by my children and indulgent daughters-in-law. I wallow in the luxury of Bio Textures, Magic de Lancôme and Elizabeth Sparkle, Nu Skin and Clinique moisturizers, Bobbi Brown foundation and eye pencils, Lush soaps

CONTINUED TO

MODELS Lovely Rentoy, Sarah Pennis, Patricia Gil-Mayer and Maricel Fernando and Pilipino Shine

Book on Philippine fabrics and fashion to be launched

SPECIAL PHOTO BY EDWARD CAMPOS-MANILA BULLETIN

"BARO: Philippine Fabric and Fashion" will be launched on Nov. 28, 6 p.m., at the Bahay Pangarap, Makati City.

The book features top women civic leaders wearing native pieces and other Philippine fabrics. Along with the photographs are related articles written by writers Ilona Ahchenlic, Karl de Meza, Inez Manalo, Tita Maja and Norma Respicio.

Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando supplied the foreword, while Alma Bautista-Tarrazo is book editor.

The book aims to help promote the country's indigenous fabrics industry and serve as a resource material for grassroots producers and researchers.

"Baro" is published by the Cultural Center Foundation, Senatorial Spouses Foundation, Congressional Spouses Foundation and the Ilawa Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation.

It sells for P2,000 each and will be available at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila and all major bookstores by the end of November. Call: 8213417/8220613 or e-mail inter@info.com.ph.

GIRL Jerrem

PHOTO BY EDWARD CAMPOS-MANILA BULLETIN

Goodness gracious!

From page A1

galore. I love it when my progeny lead me off to a facial or manicure or tuna cupa.

Expressions of affection

For me these are tangible expressions of how much they love me, and desire for me to look good. I suppress the urge to say these are thousands of Pilipinos starving, one heavy lipstick is made for a whole family why don't you just make a donation to the poor? Because I think that is true poverty of the spirit; to deny them and me spontaneous expressions of affection.

If my husband and I have raised our children well, there will always be a share of their hearts and their pockets for those who have less. And makeup for me, too!

Because due to the essence of abundance. Maybe my children know it more than I do, that there is never a shortage of anything in God's universe. Only one's mind limits the stuff that can be received.

Of course, abundance can be overstretched. My grandaughter poured a whole bottle of virgin olive oil on her body and all the honey in the kitchen because she had read somewhere that they make you beautiful.)

Maybe what I really want more than "grow old gracefully" is just to be authentic. Maybe that was what I was searching for all my life. The courage to be me. Not someone I'm supposed to be, or psych myself to be—nor the accepted model of propriety in pink linen slacks and judgmental clutching.

I used to be impressed in someone's idea of a fashionable home. I used to fly to dance a tatoos, to taste the day! And, like the favorite song of the bar-tenders that the singers get shot for, maybe it's okay if I did it my way.

But do I really know me? It takes a lifetime to know oneself—one changes (hopefully evolves) from year to year. There is always some newly emerged me to battle with. Some consequence or to regurgitate. But also enough angels to cheer one on the path to a dream. It is a forever process.

World in balance

Once, I confided to my best male buddy, Teddy, some of the hidden things I had attempted in my life (some of them immoral or harrowing) and others that I am determined to do.

He applauded silently. But make up for the 5 million other women who can't or won't do that, he said. It keeps the world in balance.

Whatever that meant, it made me feel good. But then Teddy is such a conversation guy himself. (Sigh.)

I suddenly recalled all those attempts. I would get those well-meaning friends and relatives whenever I were stopped the latter with a suspicion that was out of the box, a quirky dress or some article I wrote that they felt was "much too personal" or "too revealing," something that pushed them out of their comfort zone. It made me feel like an exhibitionist, a guilty intruder.

But then I remembered all the women

'Maybe what I really want more than growing old gracefully is just to be authentic... I can't live imprisoned in someone's idea of a fashionable home'

within my memory who not just desired propriety, as I did, but really and truly broke rules. In the '50s, a lovely woman married to a decent and handsome executive, who can sway with a throwback, a society matron who couldn't stand her lonely millionaire's life and eloped with a military man; a young friend who got herself willingly disfowned for living for a lifetime romanticizing convention; a gay friend who "married" his very gay partner in a scandalous public ceremony; and opened a successful bar afterward.

They had ventured out of the fold, gone out of bounds. And yet whatever it is they had done 10 or 20 years ago is something now taken for granted—no more raised eyebrows, parents now taking on the progeny they leave behind or produce or the spouse that has been abandoned. They are no longer banished to other corners (or drinkers men).

Society has changed. Some will say for the better because it is now more accepting, some will say for the worse because shouldn't we just button up our blouses again and be as pure as we thought we were before all this sexual revelation?

It was the originals who got barbecued—some dead for turning high society, civil law or Church. Did they help the evolution of the planet any? What did their then outrageous acts accomplish?

Well, for one thing, maybe single mothers are now no longer pariahs, many of them money other men and become responsible wives and parents. Homosexuals are no longer hauled black and blue by machos or they were some decades ago simply because they did not wish to be men.

Pushing social boundaries

Mavericks and free spirits, with or without being aware of it, push the boundaries of social tolerance and understanding a little wider. What would we do without ladlad girls and boys? (For one thing, life would be less boring.)

Imagine if no one dared question the status quo, did not break stereotypes. Things would be stagnant. The world would stand still. But, of course, every one is after freedom. It is the soul's natural quest. The only thing your freedom asks for is responsibility, to be answerable for one's acts, to be aware of and accept the consequences.

Some old. So old answers. To do ordinary individuals like us. We break society's stuck-up little rules of propriety when they become unbearable, enormously productive and onerous. Many society's tyrannous old chest still holds: "What will people say?" "What will the neighbors think?" Cross the line and you're dead.

But only in our earlier growth do we rely on outside forces to tell us what is right or wrong (before that, could we?) for all days, ever. As we evolve, we become more discriminating and free ourselves from social pressure.

We realize that everything boils down to a matter of choice, that is why there are so many options and alternatives. Our higher self recognizes the inner choice but, of course, we may choose to ignore it.

People like me don't really cross the red line. We're not the spotsters. We skirt the edge of the line, we flirt with the boundaries, but we're really in safe waters because we still desire to be part of society.

We make quick flashes here and there only when we can no longer breathe the stale air, hoping to make a small difference. But we dare only as far as it does not harm our husbands, our livelihoods and our children. It means the boundary is just a bubble, but to discover it already seems like such a shocking (or glorious) leap to freedom.

So maybe I shouldn't even try to grow old gracefully if by definition it subtly, it's only a value judgment of others. Lessen and neither break the law of the country

Sunday LIFESTYLE

OUR top models in Halloween mood: military guy Jeff Morales, F4 guy Brian Tan, sexy nurse Pinoymoto Barrueta, bishop Jasper Francisco, Playboy bunny Rissa Samson and cabaret girl Esmé Dee.

For Halloween, Imeldific becomes me

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

HALLOWEEN is such a dilemma for me. What costume does one wear when every day is a regular costume day? It's almost like the question that must plague former First Lady Imelda Marcos: what terno she will wear for the forthcoming Terno Ball at the Metropolitan Museum? I have as many costumes as Madame has ternos. And might I also add that I have matching shoes and accessories to each of those outfits. But probably nowhere near as many shoes as she...

My solution to the Halloween dilemma was to celebrate it over two days.

I had two couture designers come up with costumes befitting the fete/Princess. And to have multiple exposure, my costumes passed three terms on each night.

DRUMSTRUM spurs and feathers happily mingle in party siblings Tim Yap and Cruella de Vil

Costume No. 1 was Rajo Laurel's version of the wildly wicked Cruella de Vil from "101 Dalmatians." I wore an oversized mink of 101 Dalmatian puppies. I guess with my height, 101 puppies would have been just too heavy to carry.

Animal lovers need not worry; each stuffed toy dog was proudly purchased from Divisoria, made of faux Dalmatian skin from that teeming powerhouse, China.

Rajo also made me wear pencil-thin red jeans and long silk gloves to complete the look.

Makeup maven/cli Victor Ortega of Euphoria Salon transformed me into the ever-scheming dog villainess without even knowing who Cruella was.

Clearly, Disney movies are not part of his small box. In other that night, I rehearsed him with my daughter Aurelia's comics and fairy tales, including the wars of the Cartoon Network and the Power Puff Girls.

Since it was the day before Halloween, I thought, "That's done enough" and made the Metro Pinay Fashion Gala a costume event. After their very successful Joe Salazar Retrospective, MEGABS Publishing GM and editor in chief Thelma San Juan linked up with the fashion and design

Turn to page 2

Halloween is the best excuse there is to indulge in fantasy

ONE-EYED pirate Mon Gonzales with Captain Hook, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales

QUEEN Aurelia and Darth Vader

INTERCOM goers. General Norman Lara, Thelma Bell Jenny Chan, Count Rajo Laurel and Inno Cayco

HOT fairy god-wyfes from Euphoria salon, Ronald Sangiao, Danny Natalbon and Victor Ortega

ABS-CBN Publishing president Ernie Lopez with cool wife Jenna

STYLISH gals Malu Bandoza, Lulu Tan-Gan and Loiza Zarpa

ALTA Hanssen and ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma Sioson San Juan

TESSA Advincula and Cris Drilon

CHIC sisters. Daphne Oseña-Paez and Frieda Ozaeta

WOMEN on top. Karen Davila and Dr. Vicky Belo

VENICE jewelry couple Venice and Jody Go

HOT duos Mo Isidro Diaz Bonnevie and designer Rissa Palmos

For Halloween, Imeldific becomes me

From page E4

Council of the Philippines and Saul's fab runway show featuring the top 24 designers in the country.

What a show it was with over 150 creations! I got to view all of them because for once, I arrived on time! Indeed, my ironing was paid off because the show started as soon as I settled in my seat. It was a good thing I had rolled Anna Lopez, wife of ABS-CBN Publishing president, Eddie, that I needed three seats, one for me and two for my puppies. (Another good reason not to have gone for an authentic frat-queen-filling OR I puppies!)

As usual, the newest seat in the house was the one directly behind me. A Cruella Devil in sinuous black-and-white spiky hair, sunglasses with feathers and puppy fetish gear. The poor couple whose views was outta-whacked with all that gross Disney and Andy Xu of Venice Jewelry apologize to both!

The wonderful clothes featured the color forecasts of 2004, and evil was one of them, under the category "exotic." To my surprise, I even won the HSBC Special Award for outstanding red. To celebrate, my son, I treated the whole gang to its after-show dinner at Chili's in the Ayala area, the Hollywood side of Manila. They make excellent pizza and yummy nachos.

Bum on are regular Cowsleek folks, the ones now quite a resolution.

First item on the agenda was silent no passed by Ashram Club to get a sneak preview of a different kind of show. I can't say much about this place as today is Sunday, fatally dry as suffice it to say that now I know where the all good-looking and gifted men are hiding.

Heading back to familiar grounds in Makati, my party sibling, Inquirer Super's Tim Yap, distributed invites to his big Halloween bash at Dream Bar, Olive Club, Kasbah Restaurant and V Bar. Finally at 1 a.m., my Zalina, Jane and I headed back to our hostel for some much needed rest.

Costume No. 2 was Ben Albert's rendition of a queen from a very, very distant land. She, one of the relatives of Queen Amidala, but with a more expensive price. The headlamp gown came with some weird accents, another view observing headpiece and a multi-layered cape. Hoje thought I came as one of those Filipino Mary visionaries from the provinces. I was just glad he didn't think I was a Imee Niño.

MV award for ultimate Halloween spotlight goes to Miss Afghanistan, in an exotic garb by Jun Fernando.

The main event was the "Heaven on Earth" Halloween party at the InterContinental Manila. The hotel's PR director Jenny Dela, asked me to be overall chair of the board of judges. I guess they didn't want me to be a contestant. Seems these days that I have been elevated to an imaginary Costume Hall of Fame, a tactic designed so I can't win prizes anymore.

Never mind! Not to be outdone by the other guests, I went for my three fairy god-mothers' straight from Emphasis salon. Unlike in the "Cinderella" fairy tale, though, I got all my three fairies into my costumes and off we all went to the ball. If I can bring three chefs to a restaurant climb, why can't I bring three stylists with me to a party?

After making the grand entrance with a Spanish version of Mario Antonelli, a cluster of Lotus, a basketball player and Rajo Laurel as Harry Potter's nemesis, Lord Voldemort, I quickly got to work and judged the 56 international beauty queens vying for Miss Earth 2003. For trivia's sake, the winners were Miss Venezuela for best costume and Miss Guatemala for most outrageous, both dressed by Rajo Encarnacion. Miss Ecuador also won as most original unique, in a gown by Steven de Leon.

I have no clue as to the origin of the Miss Earth Pageant. Is this a Philippine invention? Is this related to the cartoon "Captain Planet"? And to added value, do the winners get to clean out reefs, or the very least promote good fishing holes?

Miss Philippines, Laura Marie Duenas, had a really ordinary costume. I almost wanted to donate mine to her as she could qualify, but the scores had been submitted. Oh well, she's taller anyway. I wished her well as I am/have ostensibly my personal favorite. This would be Miss Afghanistan, Miss Intended, wearing a costume by Jun Fernando. (Be sure to google and the costume was pretty good, too. Made from hemp, rubber, paper and palm leaves, and studded with little birds, the outfit was certainly draped around her slim figure and the rest of her body was covered with body paint.

It was a night of fantasy, laughter and pure unadulterated fun. I had never seen so many women so gorgeous even in grotesque costumes. Hey! Psst. I am coming in Miss Earth, in swimsuit competition mode. I just wonder how my beloved designers can add the bright, the curves and the possible! idea to complete the look!

E-mail me at eugenio.ave@inquirer.com.ph.

ENTENCION hosts Francis Concepcion, Manny Hernando, Cindie Yao, Sheila Nangel, Carmela Bocobo and Jonny Peña

ISAAC Diaz as Aladdin with Miss Panama, Jessica Dejoz, in a Bang Pinoda outfit

ANGEL Judge Hoje with Ivy in a child Lisa Cosmos

MISS Guatemala, Maria Claire Palacios, in an outfit by Rajo Encarnacion/winner of the most outrageous costume award; and Miss Honduras, Dania Ortiz, in a Nonoy Carbonell creation

BEST overall costume winner is Miss Venezuela, Dihiu Isabela Cedeno, in a get-up designed by Rajo Encarnacion

Weddings & Engagements

Sunday LIFESTYLE

FEIST-GOULBOURN NUPTIALS

A Florentine wedding for a design princess

By Annabel Corrales
Contributor

THE WEDDING of Chris Feist to Katrina Goulbourn promptly began at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, at the Basilica di San Lorenzo, in the heart of Florence. The church, an example of early Renaissance architecture, was consecrated in 393 by St. Ambrose of Milan and later owned by the Medici family.

The wedding was a formal affair so majority of the women guests wore long gowns.

Except for the traditional wedding vows, everything else was surprisingly unconventional. The bridal entourage walked on a red carpet instead of the usual white to match the color motif the bride chose—fall colors in reds, pumpkin, amber and gold.

The groom and the groomsmen were in black cutaway with red silk cravats and vests of red and gold. The groom also wore a beautiful embroidered vest of red and gold. I have never seen anything like it. Chris was so handsome!

Roses and orchids

The pews were decorated with fresh peach roses and white orchids, which were also in the huge bouquets in the altar.

First to walk down the aisle were Ting Abcede and Ed Feist, parents of the groom. Ting, in a plum silk cocoon gown, walked regally like the proud mother of a handsome prince. The fabric of her dress was woven by weavers of Jeanne Goulbourn (another of the bride).

Behind Ting and Ed came the four principal sponsors (including Ramon, my husband). Jeanne presided the dresses in shades of purple of the female principal sponsors Liana Jacinto Bjorkenstam and Didi Strickland. Michael Ong stood in for his father Enrique, the other male sponsor.

The secondary sponsors were also dressed in gowns with the color motif—Princess Lim in a red satin Elsie's creation, Mark Higgins in his own silk brocade jacket, Sandy Higgins in one of Jonathan Mark's designs, Jeanne Lam in a silk Cocoon for-ing and their friends Greg Abadrod and Melissa Dulay.

3 person design team

Katrina helped design her gown assisted by her mother although it was her cousin, Mark Higgins, a very creative designer, who was mainly responsible for the wedding gown and the clothes of members of the main entourage.

Keith Feist, son of Chris' brother Mark, was ring bearer while Natalie Feist was a junior bridesmaid and coin bearer, carrying 13 gold coins. Both, in matching silk suits/dresses designed by Mark, carried beautiful gold pillows for the rings and coins.

Natalie, like the maid of honor and bridesmaids, wore her hair adorned with ribbons, reminiscent of the Florentine maidens of old.

There were two bridesmaids, Carly Adler and Lucia Jacinto, dressed in iridescent amber taffeta gowns with orange plus silk organza, slightly differing in design. Maid of

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CHARISME Nuni Aerosa, Mirelle Ferrer, Yuenin Wong, Sunde Higgins, Katrina, Yumi Prentice, Leigh Gotesman, Cynthia Alibert, Madrie Villarreal, Frances Lim, Mark Higgins

With mom Jocelyn (Barrera) Lim, parents Sydney and Joan Goldsoom, grandma Amy Lim, Katrina and Chris, Andy Lim and Joann Lim Mendoza

A Florentine wedding for a *design princess*

KATRINA and Chris with parents Ed and Rosa Feria

BRIDESMAIDS Carly Adler and cousin Jasmin, friend Mirelle Ferrer and maid of honor Yumi Prentice

THE CORRALES family - Rachel (Sandi), Annabel, Ramon, Anna Lisa

JUNIOR bridesmaid Natalie Feria, Chris' little sister

THE COUPLE with friend, soprano Karren Dalrymple-Sweet

KATRINA being helped by mom Jeannie

STEVE Soltz, groomsman and brother Ed Feria, Chris, Charles Park, GM Teddy Manansala and secondary sponsor Greg Rainbolt

COCKTAILS in the garden

Yumi Prentice, was in a draped gown of taffeta and velvet in a slightly different shade of iridescent amber.

The appearance of the bride, flanked by her parents, made many of us teary-eyed, as in most weddings. It was also the biggest surprise of the day. Katrina made dazzled like a Renaissance princess. She looked exquisite against marble sculptures of saints and frescoed walls and dome ceiling. Her wedding gown was not the traditional white or off-white but was the color of golden leaves.

Glittering like jewel

The gown designed by Mark was draped by her grand aunt, Consuelo Barbosa, who worked with Mom's through out her career. Katrina's veil was of the same color and glittered in gold. She wore no tiara or headdress but she looked elegant, her hair combed in a twist with the back lined on one side with small golden rose buds.

Jeannie wore a beautiful cocktail length Cocoon silk gown of iridescent red and gold with matching shawl. She also designed her necklace and earrings as well and looked like a queen mother. Tiffany Goodhouse, father of the bride, was in black Polynesian.

Katrina carried a bouquet of peach roses, yellow freesias and white lisianthus.

Three priests said the wedding Mass. Jeannie's brother from San Francisco, Jim Lim, was narrator. An opera singer and dear friend, Justine Dalrymple Sevesi, sang three songs at the wedding.

As bride and groom left the church, they were showered with rose petals.

Filipino princess

Tourists outside the church took pictures, many of them wondering who were the royal. Katrina's uncle from England joked that she was a princess from the Philippines. She certainly looked like one, especially with the bridesmaids holding her train up.

Katrina and Chris hired four air-conditioned buses to take the guests to Fiesole, 30-minutes from Florence, where the reception was held—at the Castello di Vincigliata, an 11th century castle on a hill overlooking Florence.

Three large tables (with waiters) covered the royal refinery were laden with Italian cheeses, breads, sauces, wines and pastas.

There were about 100 guests, including the Corrales' cousins from Australia, Jean and Joaquin Lozoya and their daughter Natalie and her husband Russ. Gracie's her friend's guess was Philippe Dauffier from Cebu, Philippine ambassador to Italy.

The wedding dinner was a full-course Italian meal, starting with two kinds of pasta.

Next came the entrée—medallions of guinea fowl with fresh pistachio and thyme stuffing. It was served with a bi-color flan of carrots and spinach.

The third course was fresh salad with endive, plus seeds and Balsamic dressing.

The scrumptious meal was served over a two-layer Italian cake as huge as a mahjong table. The base was like cheesecake but creamy like pudding. The top was lavishly covered with fresh fruits.

Around it he cake were fresh fall flowers.

A touch of the Philippines

Jeannie brought from the Philippines glassware and other decor for the dessert table. They looked like Italian Murano glass, shaped like long ornamental flowers. At the center were a small calla lily and some greenery. Votive candles on the tables were made by a Swedish friar for the poor run by nuns that Jeannie helps, she is Claire Boutique.

The table setting was designed by Jeannie's dear friends Nina Tanseco and Tina Quiros from Manila.

Edward Feist, the groom's younger brother, was master of ceremonies. There were speeches—first from the father of the bride who said he always wanted a son and now after years of trying, they finally had one in son-in-law Jimmy.

Third to speak and give the blessing for dinner was Ramon. He talked about the real meaning of marriage. Ed, Chris' father, recalled how the newlyweds met.

Natalie Feist surprised the bride and groom with a ballet number, dancing to Josh Groban's "The Prayer," sung with Charlotte Church.

Then the maid of honor, Yumi Prentice (Katrina's best friend), and the best man, Cohen Schwartzman, Chris' best friend from Ist Lasalle, gave very funny and touching speeches.

The dinner ended with hot pralines, coffees and spirits. Then there was dancing in the courtyard of the castle with a jazz band playing.

The bride and groom honeymooned first around Italy then Ibiza, where Katrina lived for two years.

Wedding goer-overs were handmade two-tonnes of polished cassata that could be used for design or hangings. Each has colored flours inside a gold-lined red silk package, embroidered with a flower-in-a-emblem, a flower that looked like a pineapple. The emblem, also in the wedding invitations, was taken from a hand-painted paper she bought in Florence on a previous trip. The napkin rings, beaded box, and lace from the Philippines, were also given to guests.

The 9-inch layered the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, that was attended by Jeannie's 93 year-old mother who looks 50. Jeannie and Ting, mothers of bride and groom, gave after-dinner speeches.

Except for the traditional wedding vows, everything else was surprisingly untraditional

Sunday LIFESTYLE

ARTIST Julie Lluch's interpretation of St. Paul de Chartres's life and mission, at St. Paul College Quezon City, is a celebration of the Sorian Sisters' 100 years in the country.

The St. Paul de Chartres nuns are an evangelical powerhouse

100 years of a great sisters act

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Philippine Bureau

THREE years after the founding of the Pennsylvanian Sillimen Institute (later to become Silliman University) in 1901 and a dozen years after Jose Rizal dropped by Dumaguete on his way to exile in Dapitan, in 1909, seven sisters of the St. Paul de Chartres (SPC) arrived in Dumaguete to establish the first SPC congregation in the Philippines on Oct. 28, 1904, and the first SPC school on Nov. 16.

A tableau by Cebu-based artist Ye Ilustre depicts the arrival of the mission led by the SPC's first superior, Mother Eulalie de St. Paul Legendre, and the congregation's first Filipina postulant, Mother Modestina Dumaya.

The tableau was unveiled recently, following a test the blessing of a historical marker on the first SPC convent in the Philippines at Dumaguete's St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral compound. The unveiling and blessing headed the SPC Philippine Province's Centennial Year that will culminate in a grand celebration on Oct. 25, 2004.

Sister M. Aquinas Ordo, chair of the SPC Centennial Team, has called on all Provincials or ekonomi of SPC schools to join the year-long activities, which include lectures, plenty and exhibits, cultural presentations, the launching of the book, "The Decades of Decrees" by Sister Theresine Santiago," and the inauguration of a communication camp.

Expected to grace the occasion are 200 sisters from abroad to be led by the SPC superior general, members of the SPC Grand Council, and SPC provincials of Asia.

The St. Paul de Chartres congregation began as a small group of sisters in Levroux, France, founded by Mother Eulalie de St. Paul Legendre, a wealthy widow who was inspired by the example of Jeanne Delanoue, a 17th-century French woman who founded a congregation of sisters to help the poor.

Mother Eulalie's congregation was approved by the Vatican in 1857 and by the French government in 1858.

Mother Eulalie died in 1858 at the age of 49, but her congregation grew rapidly. By the time of her death, there were 100 sisters in 10 communities in France.

The congregation's first mission was in Pondicherry, India, in 1862. Other missions followed in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Australia, Africa, Europe, the United States and Canada.

The SPC arrived in the Philippines in 1904 at the invitation of Bishop Jorge Barlin, the first Filipino bishop of Cebu, who was impressed by the sisters' work in Singapore.

The seven sisters who arrived in Dumaguete were Mother Eulalie de St. Paul Legendre, Mother Modestina Dumaya, Sister Marie Gabriel Lamy, Sister Marie Joseph Lamy, Sister Marie Bernard Lamy, Sister Marie Gertrude Lamy and Sister Marie Ignatius Lamy.

Mother Eulalie Lamy was the first superior general of the SPC congregation in the Philippines.

Sister Marie Joseph Lamy was the first SPC sister to die in the Philippines, on Nov. 16, 1904, at the age of 29.

Sister Marie Gertrude Lamy was the first SPC sister to die in Dumaguete, on Dec. 25, 1904, at the age of 28.

Sister Marie Ignatius Lamy was the first SPC sister to die in Cebu, on Jan. 1, 1905, at the age of 28.

Sister Marie Bernard Lamy was the first SPC sister to die in Manila, on Jan. 6, 1905, at the age of 28.

Sister Marie Gabriel Lamy was the first SPC sister to die in Iloilo, on Jan. 7, 1905, at the age of 28.

Sister Marie Joseph Lamy was the first SPC sister to die in Iloilo, on Jan. 7, 1905, at the age of 28.

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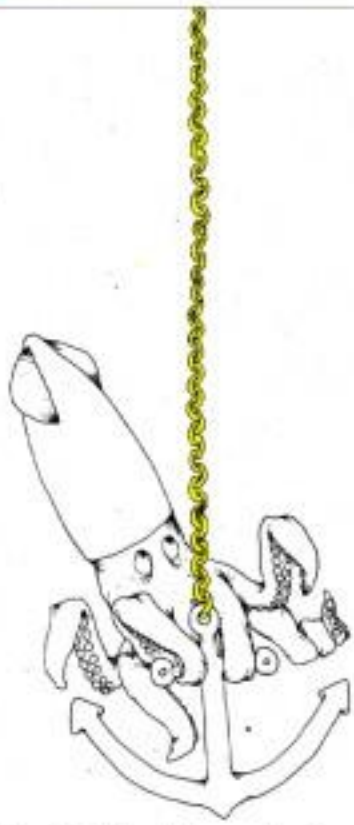

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THE ST. Paul de Chartres Convent in 1904 at Dumaguete's St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral

FOUNDED in 1904, St. Paul College in Dumaguete City today

100 years of a great sisters act

From page C7

SCULPTURE by Vic Cadsawan on the landing of the SPC convent in the Philippines

MOTHER Marthe de St. Paul Legrande, first SPC Superior in the Philippines

MOTHER Madeleine Quiroga, first Filipina Provincial Superior

Chartres in France. In 1696, the parish priest, Fr. Louis Chauvet, and Mme. Marie de Tilly founded the SPC. Later, Father Chauvet convinced the group to Bishop Paul Godet des Marais of Chalcedon. The bishop, in turn, gave the name of his patron saint, Paul, to the group. Also his name: Sisters of Saint Paul de Chartres. The congregation is now in 26 countries across five continents.

First mission

In the Philippines, the SPC established its first mission and school in Dumaguete upon the invitation of the American Bishop Frederick Rooker of Jaro (Iloilo). He gave being part then of the See of Jaro. The priests, who were French, American and Chinese, came to the Philippines from Belgium aboard the Spanish boat, Minas de Barsa, which was loaded with rice bound for Manila.

The sisters arrived in Dumaguete from Cebu escorted by Msgr. Rooker's grandniece. Amid the ringing of bells, the ship, ing (if a large boat) and the seats welcome of residents, the boat carrying the sisters dropped anchor 300 meters from the shore, forcing the nuns to transfer to a banca that docked 30 meters away from the shore. Male tenants carried them safely to shore.

The sisters first convent, find in a convent run by the Augustinian Recollects at the Saint Catherine Cathedral. Because they arrived ahead of their luggage, the nuns had to make do with one chair; they slept on a mat and had two habits and—because they were particularly known for their nuns' —a mandolin for seven nuns.

In the book "In the Philippine Islands" by Mother Mary Paul Reed, Msgr. Rooker was said to have asked him he could have nuns for his diocese from an SPC sister he chanced upon at a market in Hong Kong. The bishop gave the bishop the address of the SPC's Saigon principal. She reportedly told Rooker that "many sisters did not want to be separated in France."

The rest is history, but many do not know that beneath the promise by the unassuming rectory of the Cathedral and Dumaguete.com evangelization became of the coming of the mainly Protestant Americans at the turn of the 20th century. Not without basis. It is said that the establishment of the SPC congregation here was made imperative because of the founding of Silliman, a Protestant school, as well as the growing influence of the Aglipayan, Baptist and Methodist in the Visayan islands.

The promotion of Dumaguete as educational city, a retreat, of course, with historical roots. Francis Johnson Phe of Religious in the 18th century resulted in the Museum of St. Bartholomew's (37).

Cooperation

The rivalry between the two Christian groups in Dumaguete didn't reach here the proportions, however. In the 1950s, three factors led to the dousing of tensions between the two factions: a law that guided the SPC convent and the commercial area of Dumaguete in 1938, in which citizens from Silliman helped the SPC, the spirit of ecumenism after the Second Vatican Council, and the common love of music. The last was especially underscored by the Boundary materials presented to the SPC's Hour de Lit Hall, with arts and prayer brought from the Manila shores dismissed by Fr. Amon B. Rooker S.J.

The Dumaguete encounters was the first of its kind outside of Manila.

The cooperation and friendship didn't go for many because Dumaguete provided the atmosphere for bonding. In fact, one of the seven SPC pioneers, Sr. Angie Blanc, wrote in her diary: "The people of Dumaguete are good and indeed only have learned the beautiful and good; they love that synonymous, more... they have much faith... and are all well disposed to receive the light [and] they are eager to be taught."

At present, the SPC congregation around the country runs 30 schools, 13 pension, formation and retirement houses in 29 dioceses; and 14 educational institutions from Agusan to Surigao (among those are the SPC campuses in Dumaguete, Manila, Pasig, Quezon City, Vigan, Iloilo and Surigao and the St. Paul University in Tuguegarao). It is only the largest congregation of nuns in the Philippines.